

POWER SHARING

Chapter: 01

Subject: Political Science

Q.1. What are the different forms of Power Sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

Ans. Different forms of Power Sharing in modern democracies are as follows:

a. Power sharing in different organs of the government.

Example : Power sharing among Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

b. Power sharing among government at different levels:

Example: Power Sharing between federal government and provincial or regional government. In India federal government is referred to as the central or Union Government while Provincial or regional government is known as the state government.

c. Power sharing among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups etc.

Example: Community government in Belgium.

Reservation for Scs and Sts in government Jobs and Legislature in India.

d. Power sharing among various pressure groups:

Example: representation of trade Union being consulted while making a new labour law.

Q.2. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for Power Sharing with an example from the Indian Context.

Ans. Prudential Reason: power sharing helps in reducing the conflict between various social groups. It is thus necessary for maintaining Social harmony and peace. Reservation of Jobs and constituencies for Sc's and Sts has helped in maintaining harmony in Indian Society.

Moral Reason: Maintaining the spirit of democracy is considered as the moral reason for power sharing. Indian constitution provides for Indian state to be federal and secular apart from granting reservation for SC's and ST's in public employment and legislature. This has helped in maintaining the true spirit of democracy.

Q.3. Write a short note on the Power sharing in J&K Legislative Council according to the constitution of J&K.

Ans. The state of J&K Comprises of three distinct geographical regions with internal social diversity. The constitution of J&K ensures representation of each region in the Legislative Council, e.g Article 50 of the state constitution says that the Legislative Council shall consist of 36 members. Out of these, 11 have to be necessarily from Kashmir including one each from Ladakh and Kargil. Similarly 11 are to be elected from Jammu region with one each from Doda and Poonch. Two members are elected by the members of Municipal Councils, Town Area Committees and notified Area Committees. Four members are elected by the members of Panchayats and other local bodies as the Governor may by order specify two each in the province of Kashmir and Jammu. Eight members are nominated by the Governor from amongst persons belonging to socially and educationally backward classes in the state or persons having contributed in the field of Literature, Science, Art etc.

Q.4. The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Ans. As per the power Sharing arrangements in Belgium, Dutch speakers and non – Dutch speakers have stake in power. The Brussels government has equal representation from both the Dutch speaking community and the French speaking community which shows that both the groups have to respect each other's right. So it is wrong and unconstitutional act on the part of the Major of Merchterm to ban French language in schools in the town.