

1. Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

Ans. (i) The similar feature between the two federal systems is that in both the country there is constitutional division of powers between central and state government.

(ii) The different feature is the provision in the constitution of Belgium that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.

2. State any two differences between the local government before and after the constitutional amendment in 1992.

Ans. (i) Before the passing of 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment of 1992, the local self government institution were under direct control of state government, election were not held regularly and they did not have any powers or resources of their own. But the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments was a major step taken towards decentralisation which made the local governments more powerful and effective by incorporating them in 11th and 12th schedules.

(ii) These amendments provide that 1/3 of the total seats to be filled in every local government institution shall be reserved for women. 1/3 of the total posts of chairpersons of Panchayats at different levels shall also be reserved for women.

3. Here are three reactions to the language policy followed in India. Give an argument and an example to support any of these positions.

Sangeeta : The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.

Arman : Language based states has divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.

Harish : This policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.

Ans. We support the position taken by Sangeeta who says that the policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity. India is a multilingual state where more than fifteen hundred languages are spoken by the people living in different parts of India. Although Hindi has been declared as 'official language' by the constitution 22 other languages have been recognised by the constitution as scheduled languages. States have their own official languages and much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned state. Although promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of government of India, yet it cannot impose Hindi on Non-Hindi

speaking states i.e. states where people speak a different language. This flexibility shown by Indian leaders in the language policy of our country has avoided the kind of situation that exists in Sri Lanka.

4. A few subjects in various lists of the Indian Constitution are given here. Group them under the union, state and concurrent lists as provided in the table below :

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| (A) Defence | (B) Police |
| (C) Agriculture | (D) Banking |
| (E) Forests | (F) Communications |
| (G) Trade | (H) Marriages |

Union List

State List

Concurrent List

- Ans.** Union List Defence, Banking, Communications
 State List Police, Agriculture, Trade
 Concurrent List Education, Forests, Marriages

5. Examine the following pairs that give the level of government in India and the powers of the government at that level to make laws on the subjects mentioned against each. Which of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| (a) State Government | State List |
| (b) Central Government | Union List |
| (c) Central and State Governments | Concurrent list |
| (d) Local Governments | Residuary powers |

- Ans.** (d) Residuary powers.