

1. How does democracy produce an accountable, responsive and legitimate government ?

**Ans.** Democracy is the government of the people, for the people and by the people. By looking at all the democracies, we can say that it produces an accountable, responsive and legitimate government due to following reasons :

- (i) Democracy produces an accountable government because all the educated and enlightened citizens of the country are concerned that people should have the right to choose their representatives. If they do not work in a proper way then people have the right to overthrow them. That is why they are accountable to the people. People are also part and parcel of decision making process of the country. Thus democracy produces an accountable government.
- (ii) Democracy also produces a responsive government because in every type of country, people elect the governments and that government is responsible towards the parliament and ultimately the people. Democratic government generally takes care of the needs and opinion of the people. That's why democracy produces a responsive government.
- (iii) Democracy not only produces an accountable and responsive but also produces a legitimate government. Democratic government is legitimate in the sense because it is elected by the people almost after every five years through the process of universal adult franchise. Any party which gets majority makes the government. If they lose the majority then they will have to resign from its office. In this way it is a legitimate government.

2. What are the conditions under which democracies accommodate social diversities ?

- Ans.**
- (i) Generally in most of the countries, social diversity exists. Every society is diverse in many senses like religion, race, caste, creed, culture etc. Democracy gives equal rights to all of its citizens and constitution says that there should be no discrimination with any one on the basis of gender, colour, religion, culture, age etc. In this way when democracy gives equal rights to all of its citizens, it accommodates social diversity in the country.
  - (ii) In India, different caste groups, OBC's weaker sections are given enough representation in of the society. They are given reservations in every sphere of the life. Democracy also ensures that the government should not be made by the majority but it should have

the representation of minorities as well. In this way democracy accommodate social diversity as it not only takes care of the interests of majority but it also takes care of the interests of weaker sections as well.

- (iii) There is general tendency of gender discrimination in the world. Women are being discriminated in one way or the other. But in democracy women and weaker sections of the society, are given equal rights and right to vote so that they can elect their representatives. Even they are given reservation of seats in local bodies. Our country doesn't have its own religion and it never tries to give undue preference to any language. In this way it accommodates social diversity in the country.

3. Give arguments to support or oppose the following assertions :

- (i) Industrialised countries can afford democracy but the poor need dictatorship to become rich.
- (ii) Democracy can't reduce inequality of incomes between different citizens.
- (iii) Government in poor countries should spend less on poverty reduction, health, education and spend more on industries and infrastructure.
- (iv) In democracy all citizens have one vote, which means that there is absence of any domination and conflict.

*Ans.*

- (i) **Opposition of the statement :** We are not agreed with this statement that industrialised countries can afford democracy but the poor need dictatorship to become rich. Today's age is of democracy that every type of country, whether rich or poor, should have democracy and democratic government. Democracy is accountable and responsive but dictatorship is not accountable to any one. It is hardly responsive and only takes care of one section of society. Rest of sections are being suppressed by it. But for economic development, we need to take care of interests of all the sections of the society. Poor countries can use a number of measures to control poverty in democracy also.
- (ii) **Favour of the statement :** We favour this statement. It is right that democracy gives equal opportunity to all the sections of society. It gives enough share of natural resources to all the citizens. That is why it is necessary that there should be less inequality in democracy. But the actual condition is very much different from sense. In actual sense, inequality is increasing day by day between various sections of society. Rich is becoming more rich and poor is becoming more

poor. It is so because in democracy, we cannot stop any one to earn more and more. Every one gets equal chance to earn. Difference is of their opportunity that one is earning more and one is earning less. So democracy can't reduce inequality of income between different citizens.

(iii) **Opposition of the statement :** We oppose this statement on various grounds. It is right that industries and infrastructure are necessary elements of economic development but they are not the only elements. Human resources are also very much part and parcel of it. Human resources can help a lot in the development of the country. Literate and skilled population is an asset to any country which could be used at any time. But if the population would be illiterate and unskillful then it will be a burden on the country. So we cannot say that government in poor countries should spend less on poverty reduction, food, clothing, health and education. Development of humans is also necessary for industry and infrastructure. If industries are good but humans are illiterate then also those industries would be of no use. So a country should give its proper attention to all the spheres of society and social life.

(iv) **Opposition of the statement :** We can't agree with the statement that by providing right to vote to every citizen or with the idea of universal adult franchise all the dominations and conflicts will be removed from the society. Democracy is of no use if inequality, social inequality, social injustice, social disparity, economic injustice prevail in society. If in democracy inequality between rich and poor, male or female prevails then domination of one class over the other will also prevail. Major group of the society will also try to dominate the minority of the society. In this type of condition conflicting situation will also prevail in society.

4. Identify the challenges to democracy in the following descriptions.

Also suggest policy/institutional mechanism to deepen democracy in the given situation:

- (i) Following a high court directive a temple in Odisha that had separate entry doors for dalits and non-dalits allowed entry for all from the same door.
- (ii) A large number of farmers are committing suicide in different states of India.



6. Read the passage below :

Nannu is a daily wage earner. He lives in a slum colony, a slum habitation in East Delhi. He lost his ration card and applied for a duplicate one in January 2004. He made several rounds to the local food and civil suppliers office for the next three months. But the clerks and officials would not even look at him, leave alone do his Job or bother to tell him the status of his application. Ultimately, he filed an application under the Right to Information Act asking for the daily progress made on his application, names of the officials, who were supposed to act on his application and what action would be taken against these officials for their inaction. Within a week of filing application under the Right to Information Act, he was visited by an inspector from the Food Department, who informed him that the card had been made and he could collect it from the office. When Nannu went to collect his card next day, he was given a very warm treatment by the Foods and Supply Officer (FSO) the head of a circle. The FSO offered him tea and requested him to withdraw his application under the Right to Information Act since his work has already been done.

What does Nannu's example show? What impact did Nannu's action have on officials? Ask your parents their experiences when they approach government officials to attend to their problems.

**Ans.** In this case of Nannu, a daily wage earner, government officials were pressurized to work with the help of law. Govt. of India has passed an Act of right to information and asked the related official about progress of his application regarding issuing of duplicate ration card. Even the names of related officials were also revealed in his application. His revelation of names of related officials has done his job and his ration card was made. Even he was given a warm welcome by the concerned officials and was requested by related official to withdraw his complaint.

This example of Nannu has shown us that if any person from general public wants then he can exert a great impact on the working of government officials. Laws related to grievances of the laws exist in our country but the need is to use them. If they will not use them then what is the need of them. So it is necessary for a person to know at least about his rights and to know about the calibre of the fact that what can he do?