

## **LESSON – 2 FEDERALISM**

### **Very Short Type Questions**

**Q.1. What is the system of Panchayati Raj.**

Ans:- The Village, Block and District level.

**Q.2. List the two countries which does not federalism?**

Ans:- China and Sri Lanka.

**Q.3. How many languages are mentioned in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution?**

Ans:-22 Languages.

**Q.4. How many scheduled languages are recognized by the constitution?**

Ans:- Besides Hindi, there are 21 scheduled languages.

**Q.5 What is the government at Block level called?**

Ans:- Panchayat Samiti

**Q.6. Which local govt works at district level?**

Ans:- Zila Parishad

**Q.7. By what name local govt. at urban area called?**

Ans:- Municipality and Municipal corporation

**Q.8. Who is the chairperson of Municipal Corporation?**

Ans:- Mayor

### **Short Answers Questions**

**Q.1 What is the real reason for the successes of federalism in India?**

Ans.

- 1) The constitutional provisions are laid out very clearly
- 2) The nature of democratic politics has ensure its success
- 3) There is respect for diversity

**Q.2 what are the objectives of the federal system?**

Ans. Federal system has dual objectives to safeguard and promote unity of the country and accommodate regional diversity. It is based on mutual trust and agreement to live together.

**Q.3 What happened to the centre state relations when different parties ruled at the centre and state levels till 1990?**

Ans. When different parties ruled at the centre and state levels the parties at the centre tried to undermine the power of states. The central government misused the constitution often to dismiss the state governments that were controlled by other parties. This is against the spirit of federalism.

### **Long Answers Questions**

**Q1. What are the objectives of federalism? What are the two aspects that are crucial in the practice of federalism?**

Ans:-

i. To safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity, are the objectives of federalism.

ii. The two aspects that are crucial in the practice of federalism are:

(A) Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing.

(B) They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement. An ideal federal system has both aspects : mutual trust and agreement to live together.

**Q2. What are the two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed?**

**Or What are the two types of federations?**

Ans:-

i. **Coming together' federations:** The first route involves independent States coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security. This type of 'coming together' federations include the USA, Switzerland and Australia. In this first category of federations, all the constituent States usually have equal power and are strong in comparison with the federal government.

ii. **Holding together' federations:** The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of 'holding together' federations. In this second category, the central government tends to be more powerful in comparison with the States. Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

**Q3. Distinguish between federal and unitary governments.**

Ans:-

i. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government. The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.

ii. But in a federal system, the central government cannot order the state government to do something. State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government. Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

**Q4. What are the key features of federalism?**

Ans:-

i. There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.

ii. Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.

iii. The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.

iv. The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.

v. Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.

vi. Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

**Q5. Describe the three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and State Government.**

**Or How is the power sharing arrangement done in India?**

Ans:-

i. The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union Government (or what we call the Central Government) and the State governments.

ii. Later, a third tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities. As in any federation, these different tiers enjoy separate jurisdiction. The Constitution clearly provided a threefold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Governments. Thus, it contains three lists.

iii. Union List includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency. They are included in this list because we need a uniform

policy on these matters throughout the country. The Union Government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the Union List.

iv. State List contains subjects of State and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The State Governments alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the State List.

v. Concurrent List includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.

#### **Q6. How is federalism practiced in India?**

**Or Explain any three practices that have strengthen federalism in India.**

Ans:-

i. **By organizing Linguistic States:** The creation of Linguistic States was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same State. Some States were created not on the basis of language but to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography. It has actually made the country, more united. It has also made administration easier.

ii. **By developing a language policy:** A second test for Indian federation is the language policy. Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. Hindi was identified as the official language. But Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians. Therefore, there were many safeguards to protect other languages. Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognized as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution. States too have their own official languages.

iii. **By re-structuring the Centre-State relations:** Restructuring the Centre-State relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice. The constitutional arrangements for sharing power work in reality depends to a large extent on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements. Rise of a number of regional parties and establishment of coalition governments led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of the state governments.

#### **Q7. How is Panchayati Raj constituted?**

Ans:-

i. It is a three tier system of administration. At the lower level, it is the Village Panchayat. Each village, or a group of villages in some States, has a Gram Panchayat. This is a council consisting of several ward members, often called panch, and a president or sarpanch. They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.

ii. Block Samiti or Panchayat Samiti: A few gram panchayats are grouped together to form what is usually called a Panchayat Samiti or block or mandal. The members of this representative body are elected by all the panchayat members in that area.

iii. Zilla Parishad: All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla (district) Parishad. Most members of the Zilla Parishad are elected. Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members. Zilla parishad chairperson is the political head of the Zilla Parishad.

iv. Similarly, local government bodies exist for urban areas as well. Municipalities are set up in towns. Big cities are constituted into municipal corporations. Both municipalities and municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives. Municipal chairperson is the political head of the municipality. In a Municipal Corporation such an officer is called the mayor.

#### **Q8. Describe any four measures taken to decentralize power in India.**

Ans:-

i. The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union Government (or the Central Government) and the State governments. Later, a third tier of federalism was added in the

form of Panchayats and Municipalities. As in any federation, these different tiers enjoy separate jurisdiction.

ii. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

iii. At least one-third of all positions in the local government bodies are reserved for women.

iv. An independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each State to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.

v. The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from State to State.