

# Urban Local Self-Government

## Exercise

### I. Fill in the blanks

1. Big cities have **Municipal Corporation** as local self-government.
2. The head of a corporation is called **Mayor**.
3. The municipality arranges for checking food **adulteration**.
4. Towns having ten to twenty thousand people have small 1 bodies known as **Municipalities**.
5. Tax on goods and animals brought into or taken out of the town is known as **Octroi Duty**.

### II. Tick mark (✓) the right statements and cross (x) the wrong ones:

1. Municipal corporations have more powers than the municipalities.  
**True**
2. A person who has attained the age of 25 can vote in a municipal election.  
**True**
3. The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are elected for one year.  
**True**
4. Record of births and deaths in a city are kept by the state government.  
**False**
5. The municipalities receive grants from the state government.  
**True**

### III. Answer the following questions:

#### Question 1.

Differentiate between a municipal corporation and a municipality.

#### Answer:

##### **Municipal Corporation**

1. Meant for big cities having large populations.
2. Have more power
3. Have more resources in hand
4. Deal with the state Government directly

##### **Municipalities**

1. Meant for small cities and towns.
2. Have less power
3. Have less resources
4. Work through the district administration

#### Question 2.

How are the two types of urban local bodies constituted ?

**Answer:**

The cities with a population of upto 3 lakhs are managed by municipalities. The people of the city elect the members of a municipality. The number of members depends upon the size of the city. Seats are reserved for the SC, ST, OBC and women. The larger cities have Municipal Corporation. The members of a municipal corporation are elected in the same way as the members of a municipality. These members are called 'councillors'. These councillors elect some other members, the aldermen who are respected citizens. The members elect a head called Mayor and also a Deputy Mayor.

**Question 3.**

List five main compulsory functions performed by a municipality or a municipal corporation.

**Answer:**

1. Keeping the city clean is the primary duty of a municipality. The municipality has to make arrangements for the removal of the garbage and waste. Drains are needed to flush out dirty water from the cities and towns.
2. The municipalities not only keep the cities clean but they also ! make arrangements for vaccination against smallpox and inoculation against diseases like cholera, plague and tuberculosis.
3. The municipalities also make arrangements for checking food adulteration.
4. A municipality opens hospitals, dispensaries and other medical centres in different localities where qualified doctors are employed.
5. One of the important functions of a municipality is to keep a record of all the births and deaths in the city. It helps in the planning of welfare services for the people.

**Question 4.**

How do the municipalities get funds ?

**Answer:**

**Municipalities get funds by imposing various taxes such as:**

1. **Octroi Duty**—Tax on goods and animals brought into or taken out of the town.
2. **House Tax** — Tax on houses in the town. This tax is fixed by the municipality according to the annual rental value of the houses.
3. **Water Tax** — Tax as charges for providing clean water for drinking. People who have municipality taps in their houses have to pay it.
4. **Profession Tax** — Lawyers, doctors and other professionals pay profession tax on their annual income.
5. **Income from Municipal Property** — Tax paid as rent by the shopkeepers and traders selling goods in the markets.
6. **Entertainment Tax** — Tax collected from those who provide different kinds of entertainment, e.g., cinema halls. They also receive annual financial aids and grants from the state government.

**Question 5.**

Describe the relationship between the state/central government and the urban local bodies.

**Answer:**

The urban local bodies are the training grounds for democracy. They help inculcate civic virtues among the people. The state government has the power to dissolve a corporation or a municipality if it does not perform its duties. The state government gives financial aid to the local bodies. It strictly keeps an eye on the use and misuse of funds. The local bodies cannot levy or raise a new tax or raise any public or private loan without the permission of the state government.

**Textbook Keywords**

1. **Metropolitan:** Is related with a big and important city of a country.
2. **Municipal corporation:** Is the local self-governing body in a large city.
3. **Aldermen:** They are members of the municipal corporations and municipalities who are elected from among the popular and respected citizens of that city.
4. **Sanitation:** It means keeping an area clean and free from germs and dirt.
5. **Crematoria:** They are those area where dead bodies are burnt.
6. **Property Tax:** It is the tax on houses and land.
7. **Entertainment Tax:** It is the tax on entertainment activities such as Cinema halls, circuses, etc.
8. **Education tax:** It is collected for educational activities. Toll taxes They are collected for the use of roads and bridges.

**Additional Questions****A. Fill in blanks:**

1. The local self-governing bodies which look after the needs of big cities **and towns are**
2. **Municipalities and Municipal corporation.**
3. A mayor holds office for a term varying between **1 year** and **5 years.**
4. The **state government** supervises the working of municipal corporations.
5. Some seats in the municipal corporation are **reserved** for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
6. The municipal corporation establishes and maintain **public parks** and education centers.

**B. Match the following:**

- | A                        | B  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Municipal corporation | (a) respected citizens                         |
| 2. Mayor                 | (b) optional function of municipal corporation |
| 3. Aldermen              | (c) large cities                               |
| 4. Organizing fairs      | (d) towns                                      |
| 5. Municipality          | (e) head of municipal corporation              |

**Answer:**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Municipal corporation | (c) large cities                               |
| 2. Mayor                 | (e) head of municipal corporation              |
| 3. Aldermen              | (a) respected citizens                         |
| 4. Organizing fairs      | (b) optional function of municipal corporation |
| 5. Municipality          | (d) towns                                      |

**C. Choose the correct answer:**

- Big cities like Delhi and Mumbai have town area committees/municipalities/municipal corporations.  
**Ans.** Big cities like Delhi and Mumbai have municipal corporations.
- The mayor/municipal commissioner/alderman presides over the meetings of the municipal corporation.  
**Ans.** The mayor presides over the meetings of the municipal corporation.
- The chief executive officer of a municipal corporation is known as the mayor/municipal commissioner/sarpanch.  
**Ans.** The chief executive officer of a municipal corporation is known as the municipal commissioner.
- The total number of members of a municipal corporation of a city depends on the population of the city/state/country.  
**Ans.** The total number of members of a municipal corporation of a city depends on the population of the city.
- A municipal corporation is elected for a period of 2/10/5  
**Ans.** A municipal corporation is elected for a period of 5 year

**D. State whether the following are true or false.**

- Port trust is an urban local self-governing body.  
**True.**
- The members of the corporation are directly elected by the adult citizens of the city.  
**True.**
- Some seats are reserved for women in municipal corporations.  
**True.**
- The municipal corporation is not responsible for the supply of safe drinking water.  
**False.**  
Correct: The municipal corporation is responsible for the supply of safe drinking water.
- Municipality is the local self-governing body for smaller cities and towns.  
**True.**

**E. Answer the following questions in one or two words/ sentences:**

**Question 1.**

Name the local self-governing bodies that look after the urban areas.

**Answer:**

**The local self-governing bodies which look after the urban area are as follows:**

1. Municipal Corporations
2. Municipalities
3. Town area committees
4. Cantonment boards
5. Improvement trusts
6. Port trusts

**Question 2.**

Who is mayor?

**Answer:**

Mayor is the head of the municipal corporation.

**Question 3.**

What are the functions of the mayor?

**Answer:**

He presides over the meeting and looks after the work of the corporation with the help of the executive officers like Municipal commissioner, chief medical officer etc.

**Question 4.**

Who are aldermen?

**Answer:**

They are members of the municipal corporation and municipalities who are elected from among the popular and respected citizens of that city. They are generally experienced.

**Question 5.**

What are municipalities?

**Answer:**

Smaller cities and towns with population ranging between 20,000 to 5,00,000 have municipalities as the local self-governing body.

**F. Answer the following questions briefly:**

**Question 1.**

How is a municipal corporation composed? Who are its members?

**Answer:**

**A municipal corporation is composed in following manner.**

1. The Mayor is the head of the municipal corporation. The mayor and deputy mayor are elected by the members of the municipal corporation from among themselves.
2. The corporation sets up a number of committees to look after the day to day work.
3. There is a chief executive officer or municipal commissioner, who is appointed by the state government.

4. There are also number of members called aldermen. They are elected from among the popular and respected citizens of that city.
5. MPs and MLA also form part of the corporation.
6. Some seats are reserved for the scheduled caste, scheduled Tribes and women. A municipal corporation is elected for a period of 5 years.

**Question 2.**

Mention five functions of the municipal corporation related to public health and sanitation.

**Answer:**

**The main five functions performed by municipal corporation are following.**

1. Caring for health of citizens, provide treatment facilities, opening hospital, appointment of doctors etc.
2. Repair and construction of roads, street, providing electric facilities etc.
3. Provision for education by opening and looking after primary school.
4. To save people from disaster of fire and fire brigades are maintained.
5. Organizing cultural events like sports, exhibitions, fairs etc.

**Question 3.**

The municipal corporation is responsible for the maintenance of public works and services in the city. Give any five examples to explain this.

**Answer:**

**The municipal corporation is responsible for these public works and services:**

1. Construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, public buildings, markets, crematoria and graveyards.
2. Construction and maintenance of water supply system.
3. Arrangements for street lighting.
4. Maintenance of fire'brigade.
5. Demolition of dangerous or illegal buildings.
6. Maintaining records of births and deaths.

**Question 4.**

List the optional functions of the municipal corporation.

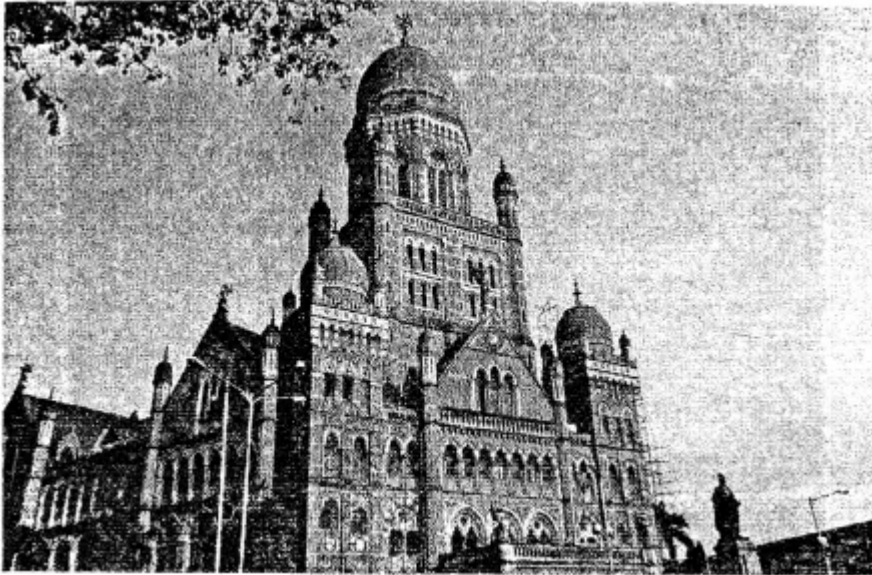
**Answer:**

**Optional functions of the municipal corporation are following:**

1. Establishment and maintenance of public parks, gardens, zoos, theatres, picnic resorts, libraries, museums.
2. Construction and maintenance of old-age homes, orphanages, night shelters, rest houses.
3. Supply of cooking gas and milk.
4. Organizing cultural events like sports, exhibitions, fairs, etc.
5. Maintenance of a cheap public transport system.

**G Picture study:**

This is the picture of Mumbai Municipal Corporation headquarters. With reference to the picture of the municipal corporation, answer the following questions:



**Question 1.**

Who is the head of the municipal corporation? How is he or she elected?

**Answer:**

The Mayor is the head of the municipal corporation. He/she is elected by members of the municipal corporation from among themselves.

**Question 2.**

For which categories of community are seats of the corporation reserved?

**Answer:**

**Seats are reserved for following categories.**

1. Scheduled castes
2. Scheduled Tribes
3. A few seats are reserved for women.