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Term-II

(Cass 9th – Political Science)

CHAPTER: 04 (WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS)

Glossary: on book (page 71)

Q1. How is a major policy decision taken?

Ans. The following steps are involved in taking a major political decision:

- i) A commission is set up by the government which makes necessary recommendations about the policy.
- ii) The prime minister proposes the policy to members in the parliament.
- iii) The policy is debated, amended and voted.
- iv) Once getting majority of votes in its favour, it is passed.
- v) The cabinet decision is sent to the relevant department. The higher officials of the department draft an order in line with the cabinet decision.
- vi) An officer signs the order on behalf of the Union Government.
- vii) Thus the decision or policy comes into action.
- viii) The decision can however be challenged in the supreme or high court.
- Q2. How is the working of different institutions regulated?

Ans. The constitution of any country lays down basic rules on the powers and functions of each institution. These institutions work and coordinate with each other to make the system working. The government itself is responsible for ensuring security to the citizens and providing facilities for education and health to all. It collects the taxes and spends the money thus raised on administration, defence and developmental programmes. It formulates and implements several welfare schemes. Some persons have to take decisions on how to go about these activities. If disputes arises the courts comes into action and justifies or rejects the decision.

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Q3. Write a note on the Parliamentary form of government.

Ans. In all democracies, an assembly of elected representatives exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people. Such an assembly of people is called parliament. Parliament exercises the following powers:

- i) Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country.
- ii) Parliament all over the world exercise some control over those who run the government.
- iii) Parliament controls all the money that government has.
- iv) Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy in any country.
- Q4. Comment on the bicameral nature of the Indian parliament.

Ans. Indian parliament is bicameral in nature. The Indian parliament consists of two houses. The two houses are known as the councilzof states (Rajya sabha) and the house of the people(Lok sabha). Both the houses have their powers and roles to play:

- a) Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the houses. But if there is a difference between the two houses, the final decision is taken by the joint session by majority votes.
- b) Lok sabha exercises more power in money matters. Once the lok sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money related law, the Rajya sabha cannot reject it.
- c) The Lok sabha controls the council of ministers. Only a person who enjoys the support of the majority of members in the Lok sabha is appointed as the Prime minister.

Q5. How is Prime Minister appointed?

Ans. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President. But he cannot appoint anyone he likes. He appoints the leader of the majority party or the coalition of the parties that commands a majority in the Lok sabha, as the Prime Minister. In case no single party or alliance gets a majority, the President appoints the person most likely to secure a majority support. The President also appoints the various ministers of the Union Government on suggestion of the Prime minister.

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Q6. What do you mean by coalition government?

Ans. Coalition government is the government formed by an alliance of two or more political parties usually when no single party enjoys majority support of the members in a legislature. The Prime minister of the Coalition government cannot take decisions as he likes. He has to accommodate different groups and factions in his party as well as among alliance partners. He also has to heed to the views and positions of the coalition partners and other parties on whose support the survival of the government depends.

Q7. How is the President of India elected?

Ans. The President is not directly elected by the people. The President is elected indirectly by an Electoral College consisting of the elected members of the parliament and state legislative assembly. Candidates standing for President's posts have to get a majority of votes to win the election. This ensures that the president can be seen to represent the entire nation. At the same time the President never claim the kind of direct popular mandate that the Prime minister can. This ensures that he remains only a nominal executive. The Vice President is also elected by an Electoral College.

President has the power to appoint the Chief justice of Supreme court, the Judges of High court and Lt. Governor of UT's.

Q8. Distinguish Political executive and Permanent executive.

Ans. In a democratic country, two categories make up the executive. One that is elected by the people for a specific period is called the political executive. Political leaders who take the big decisions fall in this category. In the second category, people are appointed on a long term basis. This is called the permanent executive or civil services. Persons working in civil services are called civil servants.

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CHAPTER: 05 (DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS)

Glossary: on book (page 88)

Q1. Comment on the importance of Fundamental Rights in a democracy?

Ans. The basic rights, which are enshrined in the Constitution are called Fundamental Rights. These rights ensure the fullest physical, mental and moral development of every citizen. They include those basic freedoms and conditions which alone can make life worth living. Fundamental Rights generate a feeling of security amongst the minorities. No democracy can function in the absence of basic rights such as freedom of speech and expression. Fundamental rights provide standards of conduct, citizenship, justice and fair play. They serve as a check on the government.

Q2. How many categories of Fundamental Rights are mentioned in the Constitution?

Ans. Six categories of fundamental rights are mentioned in the constitution of India;

i) Right to Equality

ii) Right to Freedom

iii) Right against exploitationiv) Right to Freedom of Religion

v) Cultural & Education Rights

vi) Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Q2. What are Rights?

Ans. Rights are claims of a person over other fellow beings over the society and over the government. Rights are reasonable claims of persons recognized by society and sanctioned by law.

Q3. What is Right to Equality?

Ans. The Constitution says that the government shall not deny to any person in India equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws. It means that the laws apply in the same manner to all, regardless of a person's status. The government shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, gender or place of birth. Every citizen shall have equal access to public places.

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Q.4. Right to Freedom:

Ans. Freedom means absence of constraints. In practical life it means absence of interference in our affairs by others- be it other individuals or the government. So under the Indian Constitution all citizens have the right to

- i) Freedom of speech and expression.
- ii) Assembly in a peaceful manner.
- iii) Form Associations and unions.
- iv) Move freely throughout the country.
- v) Reside in any part of the country, and
- vi) Practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.
- Q5. Explain the importance of Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression.

Ans. Freedom of speech and expression is one of the essential features of any democracy. Our ideas and personality develop only when we are able to freely communicate with others. This right is important as it allows to criticize any policy of government which we do not feel appropriate. We can publicise our views through a pamphlet, magazine or newspaper. However, this right cannot be used to instigate violence against others.

Q6. Right against Exploitation:

Ans. Once the right to liberty and equality is granted, it follows that every citizen has a right not be exploited. The Constitution makers thought it was necessary to write down certain clear provisions to prevent exploitation of the weaker sections of the society. The Constitution mentions three specific evils and declares these illegal. First, the Constitution prohibits 'traffic in human beings'. Second our Constitution also prohibits forced labour or beggar in any form. The Constitution also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below age of fourteen to work in any factory or mine or in any other activity.

Q7. Right to Freedom of Religion;

Ans. Every person has a right to profess, practice and propagate the religion he or she believes in. Every religious group or sect is free to manage its religious affairs. A right to propagate one's religion, however, does not mean that a person has right to compel another

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person to convert into his religion by means of force. Of course, a person is free to change religion on his or her own will. A secular state is one that does not confer any privilege or favour on any particular religion.

Q8. Cultural and Educational rights:

Ans. Constitution makers were so particular in providing written guarantees of the rights of the minorities. It is the language, culture and religion of minorities that needs special protection. That is why the Constitution specifies the cultural and educational rights of the minorities:

- a) Any section of citizens with a distinct language or culture have a right to conserve it.
- b) Admission to any educational institution maintained by government or receiving government aid cannot be denied to any citizen on the ground of religion or language.
- c) All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. $_{\text{MUZAMIL SIR}}$

Q9. What is the significance of Right to Constitutional Remedies?

Ans. The Fundamental rights in the Constitution are important because they are enforceable. We can seek the enforcement of the above mentioned rights by Right to Constitutional Remedies. This is itself a Fundamental right. This right makes other rights effective. It is possible that sometimes our rights may be violated by fellow citizens, private bodies or by the government. When any right is violated we can directly approach the Supreme Court or the High courts of a state. That is why Dr. Ambedkar called the Right to Constitutional Remedies, "the heart and soul" of our Constitution.

Q10. What is Public Interest Litigation?

Ans. PIL stands for Public Interest Litigation. Under the PIL a citizen or group of citizens can approach the Supreme Court or a High Court for the protection of public interest against a particular law or action of the government.