

UNIT-3 — POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEMOCRATIC POLITICS II

- Chapter 1 : Power Sharing
- Chapter 2 : Federalism
- Chapter 3 : Democracy and Diversity
- Chapter 4 : Gender, Religion and Caste

1 POWER SHARING

CONCEPT

The lesson illustrates, with the examples of Belgium and Sri Lanka, how power-sharing is handled by democracies and we learn how necessary it is to share power in a democracy wisely.

B E L G I U M

Geographical Position : Small country in Europe, bordered by the Netherlands, France and Germany.

Area and Population : Smaller in area than the Indian state of Haryana. Population- a little over one crore, half of the state of Haryana.

Ethnic Composition : 59% live in Flemish region -- speak **Dutch**
40% live in Wallonia region. — speak **French**
1% speak **German**

Capital : Brussels-80% speak French, 20% Speak Dutch.

- **Important Point :** In Brussels, the Dutch-speaking people are in a **minority** which is the opposite of the rest of the country, where they are in a **majority**.
- The minority population of French-speaking people was richer than the Dutch-speaking people. The majority community were given benefits much later. This led to tension between the two communities in the 1950s and 1960s. Tension was more acute in the capital city of Brussels.

S R I L A N K A

Geographical Position : A small island in Asia, off the southern coast of Tamil Nadu.

Population : Same as Haryana's. About two crore people.

Ethnic Composition : 74% Sinhalese-speaking people
18% Tamil-speaking people, 13% are natives of Sri Lanka, known as **Sri Lankan Tamils**.

The rest are called **Tamil Lankans** who are descendants of plantation workers, who came from India during the colonial period.

Religion : Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are **Buddhists**. Most of the Tamils are **Hindus or Muslims**. **Christians** constitute 7% of the population and they belong to both Sinhala and Tamil communities.

● Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Meaning of Majoritarianism : A belief that only the majority community should rule a country, make laws for everyone and with total disregard to the wishes and needs of the minority.

- Sri Lanka became independent in 1948. It immediately adopted measures to impose Sinhala supremacy.

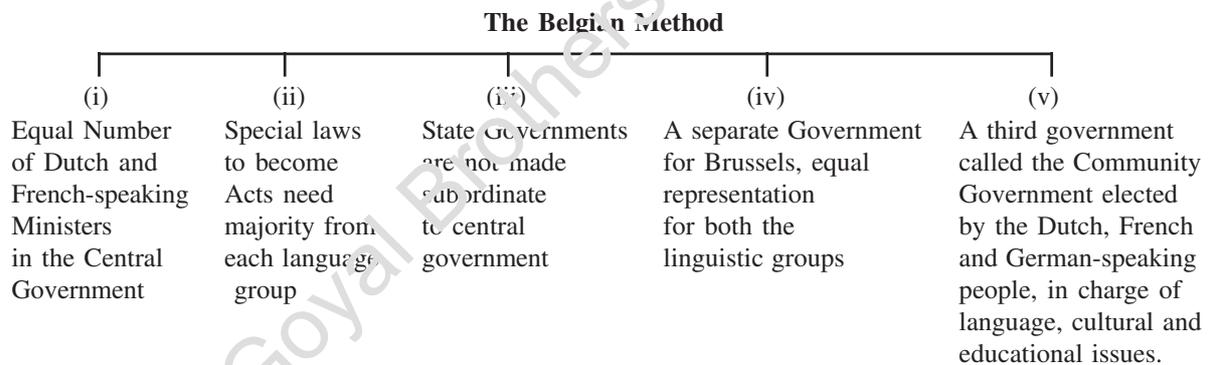
Examples :

- (i) It made Sinhalese the official language of the country (by an Act in 1956), and ignored Tamil completely.
- (ii) Made a preferential policy to favour Sinhala-speaking people in all government jobs and educational institutions.
- (iii) It promoted and protected Buddhism.

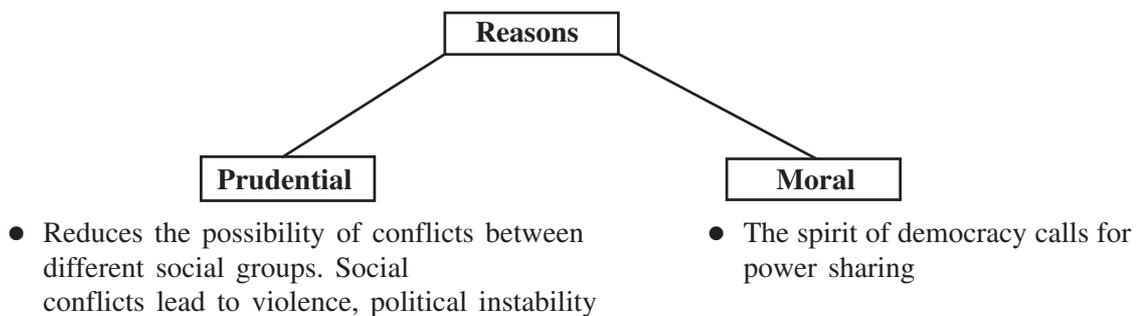
Result. The Tamils felt alienated. No respect or recognition was given to their language, culture and religion. They began a struggle for equality in jobs, entry to the university, recognition of their language and culture. Slowly the conflict changed into a demand for regional autonomy. The Tamilians were grouped together in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Their demands were ignored, the conflict became more severe and by the 1980s, the Tamilian demand had changed. They wanted **TAMIL EELAM** in the North and East. A civil war ensued, which killed thousands on both sides. The flourishing economy of Sri Lanka has disappeared and the conflict has given a blow to social, cultural and economic life of Sri Lanka.

● **Accommodation in Belgium**

Belgium, unlike Sri Lanka, has taken a totally different stand. It amended the Constitution to accommodate every ethnic community, with the result that it did not suffer from a civil war, demands for autonomy or partition of the country.

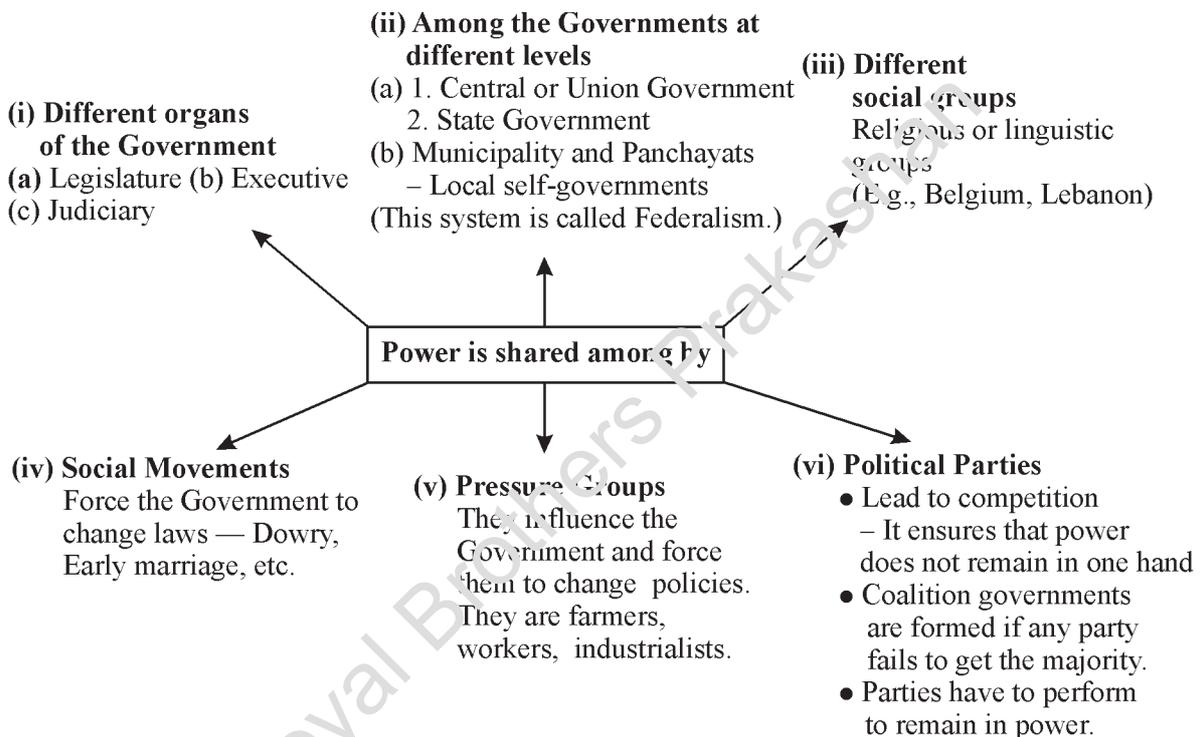


- Why is Power Sharing Desirable?
- **Power sharing** is a must in a democracy.
- There are two sets of reasons which make power-sharing desirable.



- Prevents groups from overstepping their rights to enhance their own power
- No single group can subvert the constitution, power sharing unites the nation
- When power is not shared, it oppresses the minority and even the majority is ruined
- People who are affected by the policies must have a hand in shaping those policies
- Citizens' participation is a must
- Moral reasons make power sharing essential and valuable

Forms of Power-Sharing



I. SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. NCERT TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

Q.1. What are the different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies? Give one example of each of these.

- Ans.** (i) Power is shared among different organs of the government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. For example, Indian political system.
- (ii) Power is shared among governments at central, provincial and local level (municipality and panchayat). In India, power is shared among Central government, State governments and local self-government.

- (iii) Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups. 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.
- (iv) Power-sharing arrangements can also be seen in the many political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. In contemporary democracies, this takes the form of competition among different parties.

Q.2. State one prudential and one moral reason in favour of power-sharing, with an example from the Indian context.

Ans. Power-sharing reduces the possibility of conflict between two or more than two social groups or even among those who have power to run the government.

- (i) **Prudential :** In India, seats are reserved for the weaker sections of society. Example : reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This allows the weaker sections also to participate in the running of the Government.
- (ii) **Moral :** India is a land of many religions. For this reason, all religions are given equal respect and there is no state religion. This is truly in favour of the spirit of democracy.

Q.3. After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Thomman – Power-sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.

Mathayi – Power-sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional divisions.

Ouseph – Every society needs some form of power-sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions.

Ans. I agree with Ouseph. Even a small country with no ethnic problems (Switzerland) would not like one person to become all-powerful or one group to assume all powers. Power has to be shared otherwise you end up with dictatorship.

Q.4. The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power-sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Ans. No, the measure is not in keeping with the spirit of power-sharing arrangements. Though Brussels has a French majority, the Dutch have been given equal representation in the separate government for Brussels. Imposing French language on the Dutch would be violating the power-sharing rules in Brussels.

Q.5. Read the following passage and pick out any one of the prudential reasons for power-sharing offered in this.

"We need to give more power to the panchayats to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the hopes of the makers of our Constitution. Panchayati Raj establishes true democracy. It restores power to the only place where power belongs in a democracy — in the hands of the

people. Giving power to Panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency. When people participate in the planning and implementation of developmental schemes, they would naturally exercise greater control over these schemes. This would eliminate the corrupt middlemen. Thus, Panchayati Raj will strengthen the foundations of our democracy.”

Ans. The prudential reason for power sharing offered in this passage is : giving power to panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency.

Q.6. Different arguments are usually put forth in favour of and against power-sharing. Identify those which are in favour of power-sharing and select the answer using the codes given below.

- A. Reduces conflict amongst different communities
- B. Decreases the possibility of arbitrariness
- C. Delays decision-making process
- D. Accommodates diversities
- E. Increases instability and divisiveness
- F. Promotes people’s participation in government
- G. Undermines the unity of a country

(a)	A	B	D	F
(b)	A	C	E	F
(c)	A	B	D	G
(d)	B	C	D	G

Ans. (a)

Q.7. Consider the following statements about power-sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka.

- A. In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French-speaking community.
- B. In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of Sinhala-speaking majority.
- C. The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power-sharing to protect their culture, language and equality of opportunity in education and jobs.
- D. The transformation of Belgium from a unitary government to a federal one prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) A, B, C, D (b) A, B, D (c) C and D (d) B, C and D.

Ans. (c)

Q.8. Match List I (forms of power-sharing) with List II (forms of government) and select the correct answer using the codes given below in the lists :

	List I	List II
1.	Power shared among different organs of government	A. Community government
2.	Power shared among governments at different levels	B. Separation of powers
3.	Power shared by different social groups	C. Coalition government
4.	Power shared by two or more political parties	D. Federal government

	1	2	3	4
(a)	D	A	B	C
(b)	B	C	D	A
(c)	B	D	A	C
(d)	C	D	A	B

Ans. (c) 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C

Q.9. Consider the following two statements on power-sharing and select the answer using the codes given below :

A. Power sharing is good for democracy.

B. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

(a) A is true but B is false

(b) Both A and B are true

(c) Both A and B are false

(d) A is false but B is true

Ans. (b)

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (AS PER CCE PATTERN)

B. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (1 MARK)

Q.1. In which part of Sri Lanka are the Sri Lankan Tamils concentrated?

(a) North and South

(b) North and East

(c) East and West

(d) South and East

Ans. (b)

Q.2. Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are

(a) Buddhists

(b) Hindus

(c) Muslims

(d) Christians

Ans. (a)

Q.3. Which is the capital city of Belgium?

(a) Wallonia

(b) Brussels

(c) Bonn

(d) Paris

Ans. (b)

Q.4. Which language is spoken by the majority of Belgians?

(a) German

(b) French

(c) Dutch

(d) English

Ans. (c)

Q.5. Which language is spoken by 80 per cent people of Brussels?

(a) French

(b) Dutch

(c) German

(d) Latin

Ans. (a)

Q.6. Which of the following is not a major social group in Sri Lanka?

- (a) Sinhala-speakers or Sinhala Community (b) Sri Lankan Tamils
(c) Indian Tamils (d) Anglo-Indians

Ans. (d)

Q.7. Which language was declared as the only official language of Sri Lanka by an Act passed in 1956?

- (a) Tamil (b) Sinhala (c) Hindi (d) English

Ans. (b)

Q.8. Which is the state religion of Sri Lanka?

- (a) Buddhism (b) Hinduism (c) Islam (d) Christianity

Ans. (a)

Q.9. Which of the following was not one of the initial demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils?

- (a) Recognition of Tamil as an official language
(b) Regional autonomy
(c) Equality of opportunity in securing jobs and education
(d) Creation of an independent Tamil Eelam (state)

Ans. (d)

Q.10. Which of the following statements about power-sharing arrangements in Belgium are correct?

- (i) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
(ii) The state governments are not subordinate to the central government
(iii) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation
(iv) The 'community government' is elected by people belonging to one linguistic community.
- (a) 1, 2, 4 (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3

Ans. (b)

Q.11. Which of the statements about power-sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka are correct?

- (a) In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French-speaking people
(b) In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of the Sinhala-speaking majority
(c) The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power-sharing to protect their culture, language and equality of opportunity in education and jobs
(d) The transformation of Belgium from a unitary government to a federal one prevented the division of country on linguistic lines.

Ans. (d)

Q.12. Choose the incorrect statement.

- (a) Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies

- (b) Both of them dealt with the question of power-sharing similarly
- (c) In Belgium, leaders realised that unity of the country was possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of all communities
- (d) In Sri Lanka, majority community forced its domination over others and refused to share power.

Ans. (b)

Q.13. What led to tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities in Belgium during the 1950s and 1960s?

- (a) Both the communities demanded special powers
- (b) The minority French-speaking community was richer and more powerful than the majority Dutch-speaking community
- (c) The majority Dutch-speaking community was richer and more powerful than the minority French-speaking community
- (d) Both the communities were equal in socio-economic ladder and this was resented by the French-speaking community

Ans. (b)

Q.14. Non-sharing of power leads to

- (a) peace among all the communities
- (b) tyranny of the majority and oppression of the minority
- (c) negation of the very spirit of democracy
- (d) both (b) and (c)

Ans. (d)

Q.15. Which is a prudent reason for power-sharing?

- (a) It reduces the possibility of conflict between communities and ensures the stability of political order
- (b) Power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy
- (c) Both the above
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (a)

Q.16. Which of the following is not one of the aspects of federal division of powers?

- (a) Sharing of powers among central provincial and local governments
- (b) Division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government
- (c) The Constitution clearly lays down powers of different levels of government
- (d) There is no vertical division of powers

Ans. (d)

Q.17. Which of the following countries have federal division of powers?

- (a) India
- (b) Belgium
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d)

Q.18. Which of the following is not one of the three organs of government powers are shared?

- (a) Legislature
- (b) Bureaucracy
- (c) Executive
- (d) Judiciary

Ans. (b)

Q.6. Which of the following is not a major social group in Sri Lanka?

- (a) Sinhala-speakers or Sinhala Community (b) Sri Lankan Tamils
(c) Indian Tamils (d) Anglo-Indians

Ans. (d)

Q.7. Which language was declared as the only official language of Sri Lanka by an Act passed in 1956?

- (a) Tamil (b) Sinhala (c) Hindi (d) English

Ans. (b)

Q.8. Which is the state religion of Sri Lanka?

- (a) Buddhism (b) Hinduism (c) Islam (d) Christianity

Ans. (a)

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- (a) Recognition of Tamil as an official language
(b) Regional autonomy
(c) Equality of opportunity in securing jobs and education
(d) Creation of an independent Tamil Eelam (state)

Ans. (d)

Q.10. Which of the following statements about power-sharing arrangements in Belgium are correct?

- (i) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
(ii) The state governments are not subordinate to the central government
(iii) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation
(iv) The 'community government' is elected by people belonging to one linguistic community.
- (a) 1, 2, 4 (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 (c) 1, 3, 4 (d) 1, 2, 3

Ans. (b)

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(c) The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power-sharing to protect their culture, language and equality of opportunity in education and jobs
(d) The transformation of Belgium from a unitary government to a federal one prevented the division of country on linguistic lines.

Ans. (d)

Q.12. Choose the incorrect statement.

- (a) Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies

- (c) Majoritarian Government (d) Prudential Government

Ans. (c)

Q.6. Power sharing is good because: [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) It increases the conflict between social groups
(b) It ensures the instability of political order
(c) It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups
(d) It leads to violence

Ans. (c)

Q.7. In which one of the following year Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country?

[2010 (T-1)]

- (a) 1947 (b) 1948 (c) 1948 (d) 1950

Ans. (b)

Q.8. Which one of the following systems of power sharing is called checks and balances?

[2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Horizontal distribution of powers
(b) Federal division of powers
(c) Separation of powers
(d) Power shared among different levels of government

Ans. (a)

Q.9. How many times the Constitution of Belgium was amended between 1970 and 1993?

[2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) Two times (b) Three times (c) Five times (d) Four times

Ans. (d)

Q.10. 'Sri Lankan Tamil' refers to which of the following?

[2010(T-1)]

- (a) Tamil Muslim (b) Tamil native of the country
(c) Tamil whose forefathers came from India in the colonial period
(d) Tamil Hindu

Ans. (b)

Q.11. Which of the following languages is not spoken in Belgium?

[2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) French (b) Dutch (c) Danish (d) German

Ans. (c)

Q.12. When different parties share power to form a government, it is called?

[2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) Majoritarian (b) Federal (c) Community (d) Coalition

Ans. (d)

Q.13. Which of the following was not a provision of the Act of 1956 passed in Sri Lanka?

[2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Sinhala was recognised as the only official language
(b) Buddhism was to be protected by the state
(c) Provinces were given autonomy

(d) Sinhals were favoured in government jobs

Ans. (c)

Q.14. Power can be shared in modern democracies in the following ways : [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Among different organs of the government (b) Among various levels
(c) Among different social groups (d) All the above

Ans. (d)

Q.15. Which of the following is an example of horizontal sharing of power? [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) Power sharing between different states
(b) Power sharing between different organs of the government
(c) Power sharing between different levels of the government
(d) Power sharing between different political parties

Ans. (b)

Q.16. Which one of the following communities constituted majority in Brussels? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) French Speaking (b) Dutch Speaking (c) German Speaking (d) None of them

Ans. (a)

Q.17. In the city of Brussels [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) 80% people speak French while 20% speak Dutch
(b) 80% people speak Dutch while 20% speak French
(c) 80% people speak German while 20% speak French
(d) 80% people speak German while 20% speak Dutch

Ans. (a)

Q.18. Which of the following statements is not true? [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) In Belgium, leaders realised that unity of the country is possible only by sharing power
(b) In Sri Lanka, the majority community wants to force domination over others
(c) In Sri Lanka, the demand for more autonomy to provinces populated by Tamils has been granted
(d) Division of Belgium along linguistic lines was averted due to power sharing

Ans. (c)

Q.19. Who elects the community government in Belgium? [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) People belonging to one language community only
(b) By the leader of Belgium
(c) The citizens of the whole country
(d) The community leaders to Belgium

Ans. (a)

Q.20. In which one of the following countries principle of majoritarianism led to civil war?

[2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Pakistan (b) Sri Lanka (c) Belgium (d) India

Ans. (b)

Q.21. Division of powers between higher and lower levels of government is called [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) horizontal distribution (b) parallel distribution

- (c) vertical division (d) diagonal division

Ans. (c)

Q.22. Which two languages are generally spoken in Belgium? [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) French and English (b) Dutch and English
(c) French and Dutch (d) Dutch and Sinhala

Ans. (c)

Q.23. Which one of the following is not a valid reason for power sharing? [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) for majoritarianism (b) being part and parcel of democracy
(c) to reduce tensions (d) for political stability

Ans. (a)

Q.24. The Government in which power is shared by two or more political parties, is known as : [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Community Government (b) Unitary Government
(c) Federal Government (d) Coalition Government

Ans. (c)

Q.25. Which of the following ethnic groups in Belgium has the largest population? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Walloon (b) Flemish (c) German (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

Q.26. Tamil natives of Sri Lanka are called : [2010 (Term-I)]

- (a) Sri Lankan Tamils (b) Indian Tamils (c) Muslim Tamils (d) None of the above

Ans. (a)

Q.27. Among the following countries to which one do 'Indian Tamils' belong to : [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Belgium (b) Germany (c) Sri Lanka (d) France

Ans. (c)

Q.28. Which one of the following communities is not related to Sri Lanka? [2010 (T-1)]

- (a) Sinhals (b) Indian Tamils (c) Parsis (d) Sri Lankan Tamils

Ans. (c)

Q.29. What is the percentage of German-speaking people in Belgium ? [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) 59 (b) 40 (c) 60 (d) 10

Ans. (d)

Q.30. Which one of the following statements about coalition Government is true?

[2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) Power is shared among the different organs of the government
(b) Power is shared among governments at different levels
(c) Power is shared by different social groups
(d) Power is shared by two or more political parties

Ans. (d)

Q.31. Which one of the following statements about community government is true?

[2010, 2011 (T-1)]

- (a) Power is shared among different organs of the government
- (b) Power is shared among governments at different levels
- (c) Power is shared by different social groups
- (d) Power is shared by two or more political parties

Ans. (c)

Q.32. Power sharing is desirable because it helps [2011 (T-1)]

- (a) to increase pressure on government
- (b) to reduce possibilities of conflicts
- (c) to generate awareness among people
- (d) to increase percentage of votes

Ans. (b)

Q.33. Which major social group constituted the largest share in population of Sri Lanka? [2011 (T-1)]

- (a) Sinhalas
- (b) Sri Lankan Tamils
- (c) Indian Tamils
- (d) Muslims

Ans. (a)

Q.34. Which one of the following is the only official language of Sri Lanka? [2011 (T-1)]

- (a) English
- (b) Hindi
- (c) Tamil
- (d) Sinhala

Ans. (d)

Q.35. Power is shared among different political parties that represent [2011 (T-1)]

- (a) different candidates
- (b) same ideologies
- (c) different ideologies and social groups
- (d) none of these

Ans. (c)

C. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

Q.1. Give three reasons for the civil war in Sri Lanka.

Ans. The distrust between the Sinhala and Tamil communities turned into a civil war due to the following reasons :

- (a) Sinhala was declared as the only official language disregarding Tamil.
- (b) Sinhala applicants were favoured for government jobs and higher positions in military and bureaucracy.
- (c) Buddhism was declared as the official religion.

Q.2. Why is power-sharing desirable in a democracy or any other system of government?

Ans. (a) Power-sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
 (b) It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order and unity of the nation.
 (c) A legitimate government is one where citizens through participation acquire a stake in the system.

Q.3. Describe the power-sharing in Lebanon.

Ans. As per the agreement :

- (a) President must belong to the Maronite sect of Catholic Christians.
- (b) The Prime Minister must be from the Sunni Muslim community.
- (c) The post of Deputy Prime Minister is fixed for Orthodox Christian sect and that of the speaker for Shia Muslim.

- (d) The Christians agreed not to seek French protection and the Muslims agreed not to seek unification with Syria.

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

Q.1. Describe with examples the way in which power can be shared among different social and linguistic groups? [2010 (T-1)]

Ans. Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as religious and linguistic groups, for example, Belgium. In Belgium, this different social group is known as community government. In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislature and administration. This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.

Q.2. Describe horizontal and vertical power sharing in modern democracies. [2010, 2011 (T-1)]

Ans. When power is shared among legislature, executive and judiciary different organs of government. This is known as horizontal distribution of power. This kind of distribution allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. In this pattern, each organ checks the others. This maintains the balance of power, for example, in India.

When power shared among governments at different levels, at provincial or regional level, this is known as vertical distribution of power. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called federal government. In India, we refer to it as the central or union government. The governments at the provincial or regional level are called by different names in different countries. In India, we call them state governments.

Q.3. What is the difference between the policies adopted by Belgium and Sri Lanka regarding power sharing arrangements? [2010 (T-1)]

OR

How have Belgium and Sri Lanka dealt with the question of power sharing differently. [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. The ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex. The Belgium Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus no single community can make decisions unilaterally. Many powers of the central government has been given to state governments but the state governments are not subordinate to the central government. Brussels (the capital) has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

Apart from the central and the state government, there is a third kind of government. This community government is elected by people belonging to one language community. It has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

In Sri Lanka, two major social groups are there – Sinhala speakers (74%) and Tamil speakers (18%). The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government. As a result, the democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian.

Under it, Sinhala is recognised as the only official language. The government followed Sinhala preferential policies. The state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.

Q.4. Explain how Belgium was able to solve her ethnic problem. (2010)

Ans. The Belgian leaders amended their Constitution four times between 1970 and 1993, to work out an arrangement agreeable to all sections of society.

- (i) The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers are equal in the central government.
- (ii) Many powers of the central government have been given to state government of the two regions of the country.
- (iii) The state governments are not subordinate to the central government.
- (iv) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- (v) The 'Community Government' is elected by people belonging to one language community—Dutch, French and German-speaking – no matter where they live.

Q.5. What were the reasons for the alienation of Sri Lankan Tamils? What was the effect of this on Sri Lankan Tamils? What was the effect of this on the country? [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.

(ii) The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for positions in educational institutions, armed forces and other government jobs.

(iii) A new constitution declared that the state shall protect and promote Buddhism, the religion of the majority Sinhala community.

All these government measures gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.

Q.6. Explain two reasons as why power sharing is desirable. [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) Power sharing is desirable because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflicts eventually lead to political instability, power sharing ensures the stability of the political order.

(ii) Powers sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A legitimate government is one where citizens through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

Q.7. Write one prudential and one moral reason for power sharing. [2011 (T-1)]

Ans. (i) **Prudential reason for power sharing** — Power sharing reduces social conflicts among social groups with different interests and aspirations. Social conflicts lead to violence and instability. Power sharing ensures the stability of political order.

(ii) **Moral reason for power sharing** — power sharing is the very spirit and essence of democracy. Democracy involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. People have the right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

D. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (4 MARKS)

Q1. Describe the different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies. Give an example of each of these. (CBSE Sample Paper)

Ans. In modern democracies, power-sharing arrangements can take many forms –

- (i) **Among different organs of government :** Power is shared among the legislature, executive and judiciary. This is called horizontal distribution of power because it allows the three organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Each organ checks the others, no organ can exercise unlimited power.
- (ii) **Among governments at different levels :** Here power is shared among governments at the provincial or regional level and a general government for the entire country, called Federal Government. In India, we call it Central or Union Government. In India, the government at the provincial level is called State government. The Constitution clearly lays down powers of different levels of government. The third level of government is called municipality and panchayat. This arrangement is called vertical division of power.
- (iii) **Among different social groups :** Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups. For example, Community Government in Belgium. In India, weaker sections of society have 'reserved constituencies' in Assemblies and the Parliament. They also have 'reserved seats' in government jobs.
- (iv) **Among political parties, pressure groups and movements :** Power is shared among various political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. Interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and individual workers also have share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision making process.

Q.2. Bring out the main features of the Belgian model of governance.

Ans. Between 1970 and 1993, the Belgian leaders amended their Constitution four times to work out a consensus.

- (i) The Belgian Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Important laws can be passed only with the support of majority of members from each linguistic group.
- (ii) Many powers of the central government have been delegated to state governments of the two regions of the country. The State governments are not subordinate to the central government.
- (iii) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

Apart from the central and the state governments, there is a third kind of government in Belgium, called the 'Community government'. This government is elected by the people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French and German-speaking – no matter where they live.

Q.3. What do we learn from the story of Sri Lanka? Should India follow the Belgian model? (HOTS)

Ans. The distrust between the two communities in Sri Lanka turned into a widespread conflict. It soon turned into a civil war in which thousands of people of both the communities were killed,

thousands became homeless and were forced to leave the country as refugees. The story of Sri Lanka teaches us the lesson of sharing power among various communities. Various prudential and moral reasons for power sharing are desirable to ensure stability of the political order, unity and integrity of the country. The rule of majority community leads to conflict in society and eventually to a bloody civil war.

India should not follow the Belgian model as it is not suitable for a large multilingual and multi-religious country like ours. Our Constitution is best suited and most appropriate for Indian society and culture. Belgian model of power sharing is quite complicated and not suitable for India.

Q.4. What could ethnic problem lead to in Belgium and Sri Lanka?

Ans. In both countries, there could be tension and conflict between different ethnic groups. In Belgium, the majority community of Dutch-speaking people could try to dominate the French and German-speaking people. This could lead to conflict — specially in Brussels. Brussels could have been partitioned as the ratio of the Dutch and the French was different from the rest of the country.

In Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese people, already in majority, could try further to dominate the Tamil-speaking people. It could even lead to a war.

Thus, size and population do not matter. Ethnic division, if not handled with patience and common sense, can lead to a civil war, division of the country and conflict between communities.

Q.5. Give instances to show how Sri Lanka has imposed ‘majoritarianism’.

- Ans.** (i) Sri Lanka had a 74% population of Sinhala-speaking people. From the day it became independent, it imposed the majority rule in Sri Lanka.
- (ii) It changed the Constitution to make Sinhala the official language, Buddhism the official religion.
- (iii) It totally ignored Tamil culture, language, and gave preference in jobs to Sinhala-speaking people.
- (iv) It also gave no importance to Hinduism, Islam or Christianity.

Q.6. In what way was the Belgian method better?

Ans. The Belgians gave equal importance to all the ethnic groups. At the Centre, there were both French and Dutch ministers, and their number was equal.

- The Centre and the states had equal and independent powers.
- If new laws were made, they had to be passed with the majority in both ethnic groups-voting for them.
- A separate government was elected for the city of Brussels.
- A third community government was elected, comprising Dutch, French and German-speaking people. It looked after the language, culture and educational issues.

In short, the Belgians wisely tried to avoid all tensions and conflicts by accommodating the needs and wishes of all ethnic groups.

Q.7. Here are some examples of power-sharing. Which of the four types of power sharing do these represent ? Who is sharing power with whom?

- (i) The Bombay High Court ordered the Maharashtra state government to immediately take action and improve the living conditions for the 2,000-odd children at seven children’s homes in Maharashtra.

- (ii) The government of Ontario state in Canada has agreed to a land claim settlement with the aboriginal community. The Minister responsible for Native Affairs announced that the government will work with aboriginal people in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.
- (iii) Russia's two influential political parties, The Union of Right Forces and the Liberal Yabloko Movement, agreed to unite their organisations into a strong right-wing coalition. They propose to have a common list of candidates in the next parliamentary elections.
- (iv) The finance ministers of various states in Nigeria got together and demanded that the federal government declare its sources of income. They also wanted to know the formula by which the revenue is distributed among various state governments.

- Ans.** (i) The state judiciary is exercising its power to control the state executive by asking the state government to look into the conditions of its 2,000 children's home. There is no power-sharing between different organs of government.
- (ii) The aboriginal people have exercised pressure on the government to agree to their land claims. So power is shared by a social group with the government.
- (iii) In this case, two political parties have formed a coalition and are sharing power with mutual consent.
- (iv) In the last example, power is being shared at different government levels, the state or regional groups are demanding the government at the Centre to declare its sources of income, so that they can have a larger share of finances for their respective states.

Q.8. How has the idea of power-sharing changed with time?

Ans. For a long time, it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. It was felt that dispensing powers would delay in decision-making and their enforcement. But these notions have changed with the emergence of democracy. One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of the public policies.

Q.9. One of the ways in which power-sharing is done in Indian democracy is by providing reservations for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs. Now the Muslims and Christian dalits are asking for reservations. Is this demand of power sharing justified? (HOTS)

Ans. Initially, when the reservation of seats was done for the socially weaker sections, the intention of the Constitution was to bring an end to the alienation being faced by the so-called weaker communities, and to bring them at par with the other communities. But in my opinion, it has now become more of a political gimmick, a means to collect votes, than to genuinely work for their development. It may encourage more and more communities to demand for reservations, thus leading to widening of social division. This is a sort of negative power-sharing in my opinion. Some more positive steps need to be taken to encourage power-sharing as early as possible.

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

Q.1. Describe any three demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils. How did they struggle for their demands? (2009)

Ans. The demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils are :

- (i) recognition of Tamil as an official language
- (ii) regional autonomy
- (iii) equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs

In order to struggle for their demands, they launched parties and struggles. By 1980s, several political organisations were formed, demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka. This struggle turned into a widespread conflict, leading to a civil war.

Q.2. What is majoritarianism? How has it increased the feelings of alienation among Sri Lankan Tamils? Explain with examples. (2009)

Ans. 'Majoritarianism' refers to the policy of domination over minority, just by the virtue of being in majority.

In Sri Lanka, it has led to the feelings of alienation among the Tamils. They feel that none of the major political parties, led by Buddhist Sinhala leaders are sensitive to their language and culture. According to them, the Constitution and the government policies have denied them equal political rights and discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.

This alienation among the Tamils is due to the following reasons :

- (i) In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.
- (ii) The government framed policies favouring Sinhala people for government jobs.
- (iii) The new Constitution specified that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

II. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. PROJECT

- Topic covered** : Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka
- Objective** : To develop critical understanding of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.
- Skills developed** : Analytical understanding of the need for power sharing in democracy; critical awareness about the functioning of democracy.
- Time required** : 1-2 days
- Method** : (a) Collect materials related to the history of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.
 (b) Explain the majoritarian measures taken to establish Sinhala supremacy.
 (c) Trace the rise and growth of militant and extremist organisations of Tamils.
 (d) Focus on the conflict between the Sri Lankan government and LTTE led by V. Prabhakaran; rise and fall of V. Prabhakaran.
 (e) In conclusion, discuss the situation after the death of LTTE supremo; the demand for a separate Tamil Eelam (state)
 (f) Provide your own solution to the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka.

B. ACTIVITIES

1. Collect newspaper clippings and photographs from some Sri Lankan and Indian newspapers covering the final and decisive war between the Sri Lankan forces and the LTTE fought in the year 2009.
2. (a) Read the **Times of India** and the **Hindustan Times** of last few months and make clippings of news related to ongoing conflicts between the Indian security forces and various Maoist and Naxalite insurgent groups.
(b) Classify these conflicts by their location (state, district, place).
(c) Find out the cause of each of these conflicts. Which of them are related to power-sharing disputes?
(d) Which of these conflicts could be resolved by working out power-sharing arrangements?
3. Visit the Belgian embassy located in New Delhi. Collect information regarding functioning of various political institutions in Belgium.
4. As you know, there are four forms of power-sharing : (i) Among the three organs of the government (ii) Among different levels of the government (iii) Among different social groups (iv) Among various political parties, pressure groups and movements.
With the help of your teacher and senior students, point out which of these types of power-sharing arrangements are prevalent in Indian political system. Explain each one of them.

C. GROUP DISCUSSION

Divide the class in two groups – one group representing the Sinhala community of Sri Lanka and another group representing the Tamils. Hold a group discussion on the topic “Whether *status quo* should be maintained in Sri Lanka or the Tamil community should be given more powers!”

D. SEMINAR

The idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. It is argued that all powers of a government must reside in one person or a party, such as the Communist Party in China. It helps take quick decisions and to enforce them.

Organise a seminar on the topic “Merits and demerits of Democracy Vs. merits and demerits of One-party rule / Dictatorship”.