

CIVICS

CH-3 - Why Do We Need a Parliament?

IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGIES

Approval: It refers to the formal consent through elected representatives that Parliament has as well as the fact that it needs to continue to enjoy the people's trust.

Representative: The person who is elected by the people is known as the people's representative.

Universal Adult Franchise: All adult citizens of the country enjoy the right to vote.

Coalition: When one party does not get a clear majority, a group of political parties form a coalition and elect a leader who then forms a government, known as a coalition government.

Parliament: The Parliament in India consists of the President, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. It is the highest law-making body in the country. It is also known as Sansad.

Rajya Sabha: It is also known as the Council of States. Its total membership is 245. It is chaired by the Vice-President of India.

Lok Sabha: It is also known as the House of the People. Its total membership is 545. It is presided over by the Speaker.

Opposition Party: The opposition in Parliament is formed by all the political parties that oppose the majority party or coalition formed. The largest amongst these parties is known as the opposition party.

Ruling party: The party that rules the country.

Unresolved: It refers to the situations in which there are no easy solutions to problems.

A. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of a Parliament?

Ans-The Parliament enables citizens of India to participate in decision making and control the government.

2. What was the main principle of the Indian constitution?

Ans-The main principle of the Indian constitution was Universal adult franchise. All adults in free India could vote and participate in decision-making.

3. Who designed the Parliament house in India?

Ans-The Parliament house in India was designed by the British architect Herbert Baker.

4. What is an EVM?

Ans- An EVM is an Electronic Voting Machine used for elections in India. Indian voting machines use a two-piece system with a balloting unit presenting the voter with a button for each choice connected by a cable to an electronic ballot box

5. What is a constituency?

Ans-The country is divided into many areas for election purposes. Each area is called a constituency. A representative is elected from each constituency to serve in the legislative body.

6. Mention the 2 houses of the Indian Parliament.

Ans-The 2 Houses of the Indian Parliament are ...

- (a) The Rajya Sabha
- (b) The Lok Sabh

7. What are the basic ideals of a democracy?

Ans-The basic ideals of democracy are...

- (a) The participation of the citizens in the government's decision-making.
- (b) The need for the government to have the consent of its citizens in all major issues taken by it.

8. Write a brief note on the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

Ans-(a) Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha functions primarily as the representative of the states of India, in the Parliament. There are 233 elected members plus 12 members nominated by the President. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of various states. The Rajya Sabha plays an important role of reviewing and altering the laws initiated by the Lok Sabha.

(b) Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha, known as the House of the People, with a total membership of 543, is presided over by the Speaker. The country is divided into 543 Lok Sabha constituencies. During a Lok Sabha election, people from different political parties stand for elections. Once elected, these candidates become Members of Parliament or MPs. These MPs together make up the Parliament.

9. What are the three major duties of the Parliament?

Ans- The three major duties of the Parliament are...

- (a) To Select the National Government
- (b) To Control, Guide and Inform the Government
- (c) Law-Making

10. How is a National government selected?

Ans-(a) After the Lok Sabha elections, a list is prepared showing how many MPs belonging to each political party have won the elections.

(b) The Political party which has the majority of MPs will form the National government.

(c) A majority Party should have at least 272 MPs, that is, more than half of the total number of MPs in the Lok Sabha.

11. What is 'Question hour' in Parliament?

Ans- The first hour of every sitting during a Parliament Session is called the Question Hour. During 'Question hour' Questions are posed by members to specific government ministries. The concerned Ministries have to answer these Questions on a fixed date.

The Questions asked during 'Question Hour' highlights the shortcomings of the Government and also bring to light the opinion of the citizen through their representatives, namely the MPs.

This Question Hour helps the Parliament to control the Executive (Government).

12. Write a brief note on the Members of Parliament

Ans- The Members of Parliament are from different backgrounds. Many members are from rural areas and from regional parties.

Groups and peoples that were not unrepresented so far, are beginning to get elected to the Parliament. Today there are more number of people from the Dalit and backward castes and the minorities, in Parliament.

It is good to have representatives in the Parliament from all sections of society, so that every Indian will be represented in the decision- making body.

13. How can all the citizens participate in the decision-making process of the government?

Ans- (a) In a democracy general elections are held and all adults have a right to vote.

(b) The citizens elect a few people to represent them in the Parliament.

(c) The Parliament is made up of all these representatives.

(d) These representatives are known as Members of the Parliament. One group, from among these elected representatives forms the government.

(e) It is through these representatives that the citizens take part in the decision-making of the government.

B. Fill in the blanks:

1. **The Government of India Act came out in.....(1909)**

2. **For General elections, electronic voting machines were used for the first time in..... (2004)**
3. **_____ demanded from British government in 1985 to allow elected members in the legislature.(Indian National Congress)**
4. **The idea of _____ is the take off point for a democracy.(consent)**
5. **MLAs are the elected representatives of ____ (State Legislature)**
6. **The Lok Sabha was formed in(1947)**
7. **The President appoints _____ members of Rajya Sabha.(12)**
8. **The leader of Ruling Party in the Lok Sabha is(Prime Minister)**