

POLITICS - CH-6 - DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Answer the following

Q-1. Why do we need rights in a democracy?

A: * In a democracy every citizen has to have the right to vote and the right to be elected to the government.

* For democratic elections to take place, it is necessary that citizens should have the right to express their opinion, form political parties and take part in political activities.

* Rights protect minorities from the oppression of majority.

Q-2. List the six Fundamental Rights of Indian Constitution.

A: 1) Right to Equality 2) Right to freedom
3) Right against exploitation 4) Right to freedom of religion 5) Cultural and Educational Rights
6) Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Q-3. Explain the right to equality enjoyed by the citizens of India. What is its importance?

A: * 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 only of religion, race, caste, gender or place of birth.

* All citizens have equality of opportunity in matters relating to employment or appointment to any position in the government.

Q-4. The Government of India has provided reservations for SC, ST and OBC. Are these reservations against the right to equality? Justify your point.

A: These reservations are not against the right to equality - Equality means giving everyone an equal opportunity to achieve whatever one is capable of. Sometimes it is necessary to give special treatment to someone in order to ensure equal opportunity. The Constitution says that reservations of this kind are not a violation of the Right to Equality.

Q-5. 'Right to freedom is the cluster of freedoms'. Justify.

A: The Right to freedom is considered as the 'Freedom of freedoms'. The different types of freedoms granted are as follows:

- 1) Freedom of speech and expression
- 2) Freedom to assemble in a peaceful manner.
- 3) Freedom to form associations and unions.
- 4) Freedom to move freely throughout the country.
- 5) Freedom to reside in any part of the country.
- 6) Freedom to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

Q-6. Discuss the provisions included in the Right against Exploitation.

A: Every citizen has a right not to be exploited. The Constitution mentions three specific evils and declares these illegal:

- 1) Human Trafficking: Traffic here means selling and buying of human beings, usually women for

immoral purposes is prohibited by the Constitution.

2) Forced labour or begar: Begar is a practice where the worker is forced to render service to the master free of charge or at a nominal remuneration. This type of bonded labour is prohibited by the Constitution.

3) Child labour: The Constitution also prohibits child labour. No one can employ a child below the age of 14 to work in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous work, such as railways and ports.

Q-7. Which is the fundamental right describes India as a secular state?

A. * The Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of religion which makes India as a secular state.

* A secular state is one that does not establish any one religion as official religion.

* Every person has a right to profess, practice and propagate the religion he or she believes in.

Q-8. Explain the cultural and Educational Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

A: There is a special mention regarding the cultural and educational rights of the minorities. The working of democracy gives power to the majority. That is why it specifies the rights of minorities.

* Any section of citizens with a distinct language or culture have a right to conserve it.

- * Admission to any educational institutions maintained by government cannot be denied to any citizen on the ground of religion or language.
- * All minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Q-9. Why did Dr. Ambedkar called the Right to Constitutional Remedies, 'the heart and soul' of our Constitution?

A: It is because:

- a) It is the guardian of other rights and makes other rights effective.
- b) When any of our rights are violated we can seek remedy through courts.
- c) People can directly approach the High Courts or Supreme Courts.
- d) Under this right, the Supreme Court and the High Court have the power to issue directions, orders or writs for the enforcement of the fundamental rights.

Q-10. When was the National Human Rights Commission set up? What is its composition? (Page-108).

Q-11. What rights have been recognised by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights? (Page-110)

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