

1. Explain the ethnic composition of Srilanka.

The ethnic composition of Srilanka are:-

- The major social groups are the Sinhala speakers comprising about 74% of the population
- 18% Tamil speakers, Tamil speakers were divided into 2 sub groups
- Tamil natives who are called, Srilankan Tamils(13%) and the Indian Tamils (5%) whose forefathers come from India as plantation workers during the colonial period.
- Most of the Sinhalas are Buddhist and Tamils are Hindus or Muslims.

2. Explain the ethnic composition of Belgium.

The ethnic composition of Belgium are:-

- The population of this country is of over 10 million .
- This country is linguistically divided into two main languages, Dutch and French.
- Its 59 per cent of population live in Flemish region speak Dutch and another 40 per cent Belgians speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German.
- In the capital city 80% people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch speaking.

3. Explain the three measures taken by Sri Lanka, as per the Act passed in 1956.

- i) The Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding the Tamils.
- ii) The government followed preferential policies that favored Sinhala applicants for university position and government jobs.
- iii) The new Constitution stipulated that the State shall protect and promote Buddhism

4. Describe the forms of power sharing in modern democracies .

Following are the major forms of power sharing in the modern democracies:

- i) **Horizontal distribution of power:** In this, the power is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- ii) **Vertical distribution of power:** In this, the power is shared among governments at different levels like Union, State and local bodies.
- iii) **Power sharing among different social groups:** Different religions, linguistic, tribal and minority groups share powers in different degrees.
- iv) **Power sharing among different political parties & pressure groups :** In the coalition government, small political parties are more important and powerful. Secondly, in the form of pressure group, the traders, farmers, industrialists and workers' association exercise power on government.

5. Why is Power Sharing Desirable?

- i) **Reduce Conflict:** Power sharing plays a pivotal role in reducing conflicts within a society.
- ii) **Political Stability:** Power sharing is a strategic approach to maintaining political stability.
- iii) **Preserving National Unity:** Sharing power is instrumental in preserving national unity. When power is distributed with all groups helps in avoiding the tyranny of majority
- iv) **Encouraging Active Citizen Participation:** Power sharing encourages active citizen participation in governance. It fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens, leading to more informed and engaged communities.
- v) **Promoting Accountability and Transparency:** Power sharing promotes accountability and transparency in governance. By distributing power among various structure, it ensures that decisions are scrutinised from multiple perspectives, reducing the likelihood of corruption and misuse of power.

6. **What is meant by horizontal distribution of power? Explain any two merits .**

Ans: When power is shared among different organs of government, such as legislature, executive and judiciary, placed at the same level and exercise different powers, it is called as horizontal distribution of power.

Merits of power sharing

- i) This type of distribution of power ensures that none of the organs exercises unlimited power.
- ii) Each organ checks the other hence; this is called a system of checks and balances.
- iii) This system develops a balance of power among various institutions.

7. **Which basic elements of Belgium model of power sharing make it innovative ?**

- The central government consisted of equal number of representatives from Dutch and French-speaking people.
- Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country.
- The state governments are not subordinate to the central government.
- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation
- Apart from the Central and State Governments, there is a third kind of government. This 'community government' is elected by the people belonging to one language community

8. **Explain the vertical division of power by giving examples from India.**

- When power is shared among governments at different levels by division of Power involving higher and lower levels of government, it is called as vertical division of power.
- In India, this is done by a general government for the entire country, which is called as Union or Central Government
- Governments at provincial or regional level, which are called as State Governments.
- Government lower than state governments, such as municipality and panchayats, which are called Local Government

9. **How have Belgium and Sri Lanka dealt with the question of power sharing differently?**

Ans: Both the countries have adopted very different approaches when it comes to power sharing.

- Belgium produced an ideal example of democratic system. Belgium adopted the policy of accommodation of social and ethnics divisions. On the other hand, Sri Lanka also adopted democratic system but followed majoritarian policies.
- Under the Belgium model of democracy, power was shared among two ethnic groups. Sri Lanka favoured the interests of the majority Sinhala community.
- In Belgium, both the groups had equal share in working of government but in Sri Lanka the minority community was isolated.

10. **What were the demands of the Tamils in Sri Lanka?**

Ans; The demands made by the Sri Lankan Tamils were as follows:

- To recognise Tamil language as an official language.
- Regional autonomy to provinces populated by Tamils
- Equal opportunities in securing education and jobs.
- Later, they demanded for an independent state – Tamil Eelam – in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.