

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER:1 POWER-SHARING

- I. What are the different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

Ans. a) **Power shared among different organs of the government:**

- i) In it power is shared among the legislature, executive, and judiciary.
- ii) It is also called horizontal distribution of power because all these organs are placed at the same level.
- iii) Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited powers.
- iv) Each organs checks the others, which results in the balance of power among various institutions.

b) **Power shared among governments at different levels:**

- i) There is a government for the entire country, such a government is called federal government.
- ii) In India we refer to it as Central or union government.
- iii) The government at provincial or regional level is called state government in India.
- iv) In India Government is divided at the central level, state level and local level.
- v) It is called vertical division of power as power is divided among higher and lower levels of governments.

c) **Power shared among different social groups:**

- i) This type of arrangement is made to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise feel alienated from the government.
- ii) This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.
- iii) In India, we have the system of reserved constituencies in the assemblies and the parliament of one country.
- iv) Community government in Belgium is a good example.

d) Power shared among political parties, pressure groups and movements;

- i) When there is competition, it ensures that power does not remain in one hand.
- ii) In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. This type of government is called 'Coalition government'.
- iii) Many interest groups like traders, business men, farmers, industrial workers, also have a share in governmental power either way, through participation and influencing decision making process.

2. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri lankan government.

Ans: Consequences of majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri lankan government.

- i) Tamils felt that the government was not sensitive about Tamil language and culture.
- ii) Tamils felt discriminated against in jobs and education.
- iii) Tamils felt the government was practicing religious discrimination.
- iv) Relations between Tamils and Sinhalese became strained.

3. Describe any five majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri lankan government to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Ans: Sri lankan Tamils felt alienated because:

- i) Government adopted majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy. In 1956 an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language thus disregarding Tamil.
- ii) The governments followed preferential politics that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
- iii) A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
- iv) Sri lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhists Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture.
- v) As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained overtime and it soon turned into a Civil war.

4. How Majoritarianism has increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri lankan Tamils? Explain.

Ans Sri lanka became independent in 1948. It immediately adopted measures to impose Sinhala supremacy.

- i) The Tamils felt alienated. No respect or recognition was given to their language, culture and religion.
- ii) They began a struggle for equality in jobs, entry to the university, recognition of their language and culture.
- iii) Slowly the conflict changed into a demand for regional autonomy.
- iv) The Tamils were grouped together in the north and east of Sri lanka.
- v) Their demands were ignored, the conflict became more severe and by the 1980's their demands had changed.
- vi) They wanted Tamil Eelam in the north and east. A civil war ensued, which killed thousands on both sides.
- vii) The flourishing economy of Sri lanka disappeared and the conflict gave blow to the social, cultural and economic life of Sri lanka.

5. "Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy". Justify this statement with three suitable points.

Ans: Power sharing is desirable in democracy because:

i) Prudential reasons:

- a) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.
- b) It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- c) Imposing the will of the majority, community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.

ii) Moral reasons:

- a) Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effect.
- b) People have the right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- c) A legitimate government is one where citizens through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

6. Differentiate between horizontal and vertical divisions of powers.

Ans:

Sl. No.	Horizontal division of power	Vertical division of power
1.	Horizontal division of power is an arrangement in which power is shared among different organs of the government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.	In vertical division of power, power can be shared among governments at different levels, like union, state and local levels of government, ie. It involves higher and lower levels of the government.
2.	In horizontal division of power, different organs of government exercise different powers. This is a concept of separation of powers.	In vertical division of power, constitution clearly lays down the power of different levels of the government.

3.	Horizontal distribution specifies the concept of checks and balances in order to check the exercise of unlimited powers of the organs	There is no concept of checks and balances because powers are clearly given by the constitution from the higher level to the lower level.
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7. In modern democracies, power is often shared among different organs of the government. Explain.

Ans : Power is shared between different organs of the government ie. Legislature, executive and judiciary.

- i) Legislature: The legislature is concerned with passing the laws, controlling the finances of the state and delivering on the matter of public importance.
- ii) Executive: The executive machinery implements the policies of the government and executes the rules made by the legislative bodies.
- iii) Judiciary: The judiciary is concerned with the interpretation of the laws and has the power to punish those who commit crimes or break the laws. The judiciary can also check the functioning of the executives.

8. State the main elements of the power sharing model evolved in Belgium.

Ans: The main elements of the power sharing model evolved in Belgium are:

- i) 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 the majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- ii) Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. The state governments are not subordinated to the central government.

- iii) Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French-speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch speaking community has accepted equal representation in the central government.
- iv) Apart from the central and the state governments there is a third kind of government called the Community government.
- v) The community government is elected by people belonging to one language community- Dutch, French and German speaking. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language issues.

9. How is the ethnic composition of Belgium very complex? Explain.

- (i) Of the country's total population, 59 percent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language.
- (ii) Another 40 percent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French.
- (iii) Remaining 1 percent of the Belgians speak German.
- (iv) In the capital city Brussels, 80 percent people speak French while 20 percent are Dutch speaking.

10. Compare the situation of Belgium and Srilanka considering their location, size and cultural aspects.

- (i) Belgium is located in Europe, whereas Srilanka is located in South Asia.
- (ii) Belgium has a population of little over one crore, whereas Srilanka has population of two crores.
- (iii) In Belgium, 59 percent people living in Flemish region speak Dutch language. Another 40 percent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining 1 percent of the Belgians speak German, whereas in Srilanka, 74 percent population is Sinhalese speakers and 18 percent is Tamil speakers.

(iv) In Belgium, French –speaking community is relatively rich and powerful and in Sri lanka, Sinhalese-speaking people are Buddhist and powerful.

(v) In Belgium, Dutch-speaking people are in numeric majority, whereas in Sri lanka, Sinhalese-speaking population is in majority.
