

## Lesson at a Glance

- An MLA is a member of the **Legislative Assembly**. He is elected by the people. In this way, he represents people.
- Every state in India has a Legislative Assembly.
- Each state is divided into **constituencies**.
- A **constituency** is an area from which all the voters living there choose their representatives, who then become **Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)**.
- These MLAs belong to different **political parties**.
- A political party whose MLAs have won more than half the number of constituencies, a state can be said to be in a **majority**.
- The political party that has a majority becomes the ruling party and all other members become the **opposition**.
- After the elections, the MLAs belonging to the ruling party elect their leader who becomes the **Chief Minister**. The Chief Minister then selects other people as **ministers**.
- The **Governor** of the state appoints the Chief Minister and other ministers.
- The ministers have separate offices.
- Some MLAs have dual responsibilities—one as an MLA and the other as a minister.
- A **debate** is generally held in the Assembly to discuss current problems. During debate time MLAs can express their opinions and ask questions related to the issue or give suggestions about what should be done by the government. The minister then replies to the questions and assures the Assembly that adequate steps are being taken.
- The Chief Minister and other ministers together are responsible to run the government.
- The word 'government', refers to government departments and various ministers who head them.
- All the MLAs who gather together in the legislative assembly are called the **Legislature**.

- The Legislature Assembly is not the only place where opinions are expressed about the work of the government. There several newspaper, TV channels and other organisations which also talk about the government.
- After the discussion in the assembly a press conference is generally held by a particular minister who explains the steps taken by the government. Media persons then report these discussions in several newspapers.
- The government can also decide to make new laws for the state regarding sanitation and health facilities. The various government departments then implements these laws.
- Whenever, the government fails to satisfy people's needs, they organise meetings to voice their opinions and protest against the government.

## IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED

Q. 1. *What is happening in Patalpuram?*

(NCERT Textbook, page 31)

**Ans.** Patalpuram is facing acute water crisis. People are found to be drinking unclean water. As a result, they are becoming victims of acute diarrhoea. Children are the worst affected.

According to the TV news, ten people have died from this disease. This incident has provoked the anger of the people of Patalpuram. They have gheraoed the MLAs residence. They demand that the authorities take immediate action to bring the public health situation under control.

Q. 2. *Why is this problem serious?*

(NCERT Textbook, page 31)

**Ans.** This problem is serious because several people have died from diarrhoea. Hence it is necessary to take immediate action to bring the situation under control.

Q. 3. *What action do you think can be taken in the above situation and who do you think should take this action? Discuss.*

(NCERT Textbook, page 31)

**Ans.** Clean drinking water should be supplied to the people. The MLA of Patalpuram should be responsible enough to take this action.

**Q. 4.** Discuss the following terms with your teacher public meeting, State in India, constituency, majority, ruling party and opposition. (NCERT Textbook, page 32)

- Ans.**
- **Public Meeting.** Gathering of general people in which they are made known about the current problems faced by masses.
  - **States in India.** India is divided into several units with well-defined boundaries. These units are known as states of India.
  - **Constituency.** The area from which all the voters living there choose their representatives is known as constituency.
  - **Majority.** A political party whose MLAs have won more than half the number of constituencies in a state is said to be in a majority.
  - **Ruling party.** The political party with majority is often called the ruling party.
  - **Opposition.** The elected representatives who are not members of the ruling party are called the opposition. These representatives can question government decisions and actions. They can also raise new issues in the interest of the common mass.

**Q. 5.** What were the main arguments put forward by different MLAs who thought that the government was not taking the situation in a serious manner?

(NCERT Textbook, page 36)

- Ans.**
- **MLA 1.** He belongs to the constituency of Alchanda gaon. In his constituency during the last three weeks, 15 deaths have occurred because of diarrhoea. He is very much upset that the government has not been able to check the situation although it proclaims itself to be a champion of technology.
  - **MLA 2.** He wants to know why the government hospitals are in a bad situation. He also asks the government how it plans to deal with this situation which is affecting a large number of people.
  - **MLA 3.** His constituency, i.e. Tolpath faces acute water shortage. Women have to fetch water from a long distance. The MLA wants to know from the

government the number of tankers that have been put into service to supply water.

**Q. 6.** If you were the health minister, how would you respond to the above discussion? (NCERT Textbook, page 36)

**Ans.** If I were the health minister I would have responded promptly in this regard. I would have put mobile healthcare jeeps with adequate equipments and doctors into service to the patients.

**Q. 7.** Do you think the above debate would have been useful in some ways? How? Discuss.

(NCERT Textbook, page 36)

**Ans.** Several issues are highlighted in the debate and their solutions are sorted out in the minimum time.

**Q. 8.** In the working of the government, explain the difference between being an MLA and an MLA who is also a minister. (NCERT Textbook, page 36)

**Ans.** An MLA is responsible only for the development of his constituency while an MLA who is also a minister has to bear dual responsibilities. He is not only accountable for his own constituency but also for the entire state.

**Q. 9.** Write two measures that the government undertook for controlling diarrhoea? (NCERT Textbook, page 37)

**Ans.** The two measures that the government undertook for controlling diarrhoea are;

- Supply of drinking water to every village through tanker trucks.
- Creating general awareness through campaign in order to inform people about the steps to prevent diarrhoea.

**Q. 10.** What is the purpose of a press conference? How does the press conference help you get information on what the government is doing? (NCERT Textbook, page 37)

**Ans.** Several media persons are invited in a press conference to hear and ask questions on a particular issue. These media persons put the issue for a public debate in their papers and magazines so that the ins and outs in the welfare of the general public may come out. Such conference also create a public opinion about the issue.

### ■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

**Q. 1.** Use the terms 'constituency' and 'represent' to explain who an MLA is and how is the person elected?

**Ans.** A state is divided into several constituencies on the basis of population. Every constituency elects one representative for the Legislative Assembly. The person elected as representative represents that particular constituency. He/She is called as a Member of Legislative Assembly i.e. MLA. An MLA is elected through a general election. He/She may be a member of a recognised political party or independent. One who gets the maximum votes becomes the MLA of that constituency.

**Q. 2.** How did some MLAs become Ministers? Explain.

**Ans.** The party which is elected in majority for the Legislative Assembly forms the government. As per constitutional provisions the ruling party elects its leader who is called the Chief Minister as the head of the government. The Chief Minister, in consultation with the Governor, constitutes a cabinet which includes members of his/her party as ministers. The MLAs who become ministers are allotted with a portfolio. Here the MLAs turned ministers become accountable for the entire state for that particular portfolio.

**Q. 3.** Why should decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers be debated in the Legislative Assembly?

**Ans.** The decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers must be debated in the Legislative Assembly. It is because during debate it is discussed whether a particular decision is in interest of the people at large or not. It is also discussed whether it is urgent or not, how much would it cost the government, is there anything objectionable for any particular community, etc.

**Q. 4.** What was the problem in Patalpuram? What discussion/actions was taken by the following? Fill in the table.

Public meeting	
Legislative Assembly	
Press conference	
Chief Minister	

**Ans.** Patalpuram was facing acute crisis of water

Public meeting	Condemned the government and showed protest put their demand to Govt.
Legislative Assembly	Discussed the issue and decided the course of action
Press conference	The health minister presented the plan of action initiated by Govt.
Chief Minister	Visited the village of Patalpuram announced compensation to the affected families, also clarified the future action to solve the problem.

**Q. 5.** What is the difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments?

**Ans.** The difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments is that every department is headed by a minister who is also an MLA. The minister approves any work done or proposed by the department. The department is responsible for the projections and completion of the work where as MLAs or ministers coordinate between the Assembly and the departments.

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