

### Lesson at a Glance

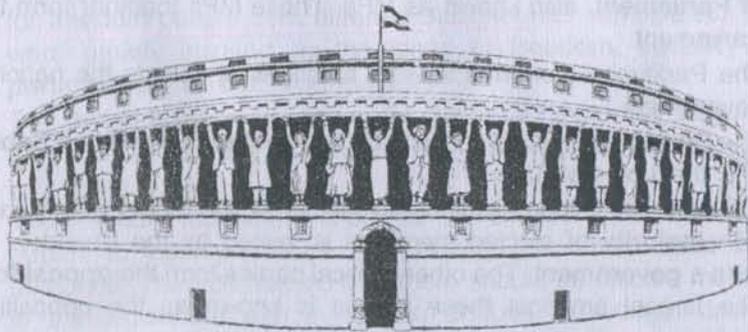
- India got freedom after a long and tough struggle. In this struggle for freedom people from different backgrounds participated. They were greatly inspired by the ideas of **freedom, equality and participation in decision-making**.
- The British government had created such a havoc that they never dared to criticise any of their decisions even if they did not agree with them.
- The freedom movement changed this situation. The nationalists began to openly criticise the British government and make demands. They demanded that there should be elected members in the legislature with a right to discuss the budget and ask questions. The **Government of India Act 1909**, allowed for some elected representation.
- However, all adults were not allowed to vote. Also people could not participate in decision making under the British rule.
- But the nationalists wanted that all persons in independent India would be able to participate in making decisions.
- Therefore, when India got freedom the dreams and aspirations of the freedom struggle were made concrete in the Constitution. The Constitution of Independent India laid down the principle of **universal adult franchise**. Now, all adult citizens of the country have the voting right.
- In a democratic form of government the individual or citizen is the most important person. Now the question arises how does the individual give approval to the government? One way of doing so is through **elections**.
- People would elect their **representatives** to the **Parliament**, then one group from among these elected representatives forms the government.
- The Parliament is made up of all representatives together and it guides the government.
- It means people through their chosen representatives form the government and control it.

- The Indian Parliament came into existence in 1947. It is the representative of the people and enjoys immense powers.
- Elections to the Parliament are held in a similar manner as they are for the state legislature.
- The **Lok Sabha** is usually elected once every five years. The country is divided into several **constituencies**. Each of these constituencies elects one person to the Parliament.
- The candidates who contest elections usually belong to different political parties. Once elected, these candidates become **Members of Parliament**, also known as MPs. These MPs together form the Parliament.
- The Parliament performs several functions. It selects the national government.
- The Parliament in India consists of the **President**, the **Rajya Sabha** and the **Lok Sabha**.
- After the Lok Sabha elections are declared, the leader of the party with **majority** of elected members is invited by the President to form a **government**. The other political parties form the **opposition**. The largest amongst these parties is known as the opposition party.
- Sometimes, it so happens that one political party does not get a clear majority. In such a situation a group of parties come together to form a government. Such a government is known as a **coalition government**.
- The **Prime Minister** of India is the leader of the ruling party in the Lok Sabha. From the MPs who belong to his party, the Prime Minister selects ministers to work with him to implement decisions.
- The Rajya Sabha functions primarily as the representative of the states of India in the Parliament.
- It plays an important role of **reviewing** and **altering** (alterations are required) the laws initiated by the Lok Sabha.
- The Parliament keeps a check on the ministers and their work. MPs have the right to question the ministers about the working of their departments. This is usually done during the **question hour**.
- The government gets valuable feedback and is kept on its toes by the questions by the MPs.
- In all matters dealing with finances, the Parliament's approval is crucial for the government.
- The Parliament makes laws for the entire country.
- The Parliament now has more and more people from diverse backgrounds.

- There has also been an increase in political participation from the Dalit and backward castes and the minorities.
- Some seats are reserved in the Parliament for SCs and STs.
- It has also been suggested that there should be reservation of seats for women. However, this issue is still debated.

### IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED

1. Observe the image of the Parliament given below.



What do you think the artist is trying to convey through this image? [NCERT Textbook, page 31]

**Ans.** This image signifies that the Parliament is based on the people's strength. These people come from various backgrounds.

2. Give one reason why you think there should be universal adult franchise. [NCERT Textbook, page 31]

**Ans.** There should be universal adult franchise in order to establish equality in the society.

3. Do you think there would be any difference if the class monitor was selected by the teacher or elected by the students? Discuss. [NCERT Textbook, page 32]

**Ans.** Selection of class monitor by the teacher is not a democratic process. Therefore, the monitor is not the representative of the students of the class. But if the monitor is elected by the students he will represent the entire class in the true sense, because this a democratic process.

4. Look at the table given below and answer the questions that follow: [NCERT Textbook, page 35]

### Results of 8th Lok Sabha Elections (1984)

Political Parties	No. of MPs Elected
<b>National Parties</b>	
Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP)	2
Communist Party of India (CPI)	6
Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM)	22
Indian Congress Socialist (ICS)	4
Indian National Congress (INC)	404
Janata Party (JNP)	10
Lok Dal (LKD)	3
<b>State Parties</b>	
All India Anna DMK (AIADMK)	12
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)	2
All India Forward Block (FBL)	2
Indian Congress (J) (ICJ)	1
Jammu and Kashmir Conference (JKN)	3
Kerala Congress (J) (KCJ)	2
Muslim League (MUL)	2
Peasants and Workers Party of India (PWP)	1
Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)	3
Telugu Desam Party (TDP)	30
Independents	5
Grand Total	514
<b>Note:</b> The Lok Sabha elections were not held in Assam and Punjab during 1984.	
<b>Source:</b> <a href="http://www.eci.gov.in">www.eci.gov.in</a>	

- Who will form the government? Why?
- Who will be present for discussions in the Lok Sabha?
- In this process similar to what you have read about class VII?

**Ans.** (i) The Indian National Congress (INC) will form the government because it has secured clear majority in the Lok Sabha.

(ii) The MPs.

(iii) Yes.

5. Look at the photograph below taken from NCERT textbook, page 28. It shows results from the 3rd Lok Sabha elections held in 1962. Use the photograph to answer the following questions (given on Textbook page 35).

### ELECTION RESULTS FOR LOK SABHA

STATES	TOTAL SEATS	CONG.	PSP	COMMU.	JANASANGH	SOCIALIST	SWATANTRA	OTHER PARTIES INDEPENDENT
1. ANDHRA PRADESH	43	34	2	7				
2. ASSAM	12	9	1				1	
3. BIHAR	53	32	1	1		1	7	
4. GUJARAT	22	16					4	
5. KERALA	18	6		6				
6. MADHYA PRADESH	36	23	3		4	1		
7. MADRAS	41	31		2				
8. MAHARASHTRA	44	36	1					
9. MOISORE	26	24						
10. ORISSA	20	14	1					
11. PUNJAB	22	13			3	1		
12. RAJASTHAN	22	14			1	1	3	
13. UTTAR PRADESH	86	59	2	2	7		3	
14. WEST BENGAL	36	22		9		1		
15. DELHI	5	5						
16. MANIPUR	2							
17. TRIPURA	2			2				
TOTAL	490	338	11	29	15	5	18	

(i) Which state has the highest number of MPs in the Lok Sabha? Why do you think this is so?

(ii) Which state has the least number of MPs in the Lok Sabha?

(iii) Which political party has won the most seats in all states?

(iv) Which party do you think will form the government? Give reasons why?

[NCERT Textbook, page 35]

**Ans.** (i) Uttar Pradesh. This has the largest population as compared to other states. Therefore I think it has the highest number of MPs in the Lok Sabha.

(ii) Manipur.

(iii) The Congress Party

(iv) The Congress Party will form the government because it has got clear majority in the Lok Sabha.

6. Look at the following and answer the questions that follow:

[NCERT Textbook, page 38]

#### LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2007 ANSWERED ON 30.11.2007

#### JUNK FOOD IN SCHOOLS

2007. SHRI SALARAPATTY KUPPUSAMY KHARVENTHAN  
Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked all State Governments to ban junk foods in schools and also for setting up of nutrition standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has ensured the compliance of the above standards by the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof.

#### ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(a) and (b) No, Sir. A letter was issued to the States by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to consider providing guidelines to schools to create a school nutrition policy.

(c) and (d) Does not arise. (Source: <http://loksabha.nic.in/>)

● In the above question, what information is being sought from the Minister of women and Child development?

- If you were a Member of Parliament (MP), list two questions that you would like to ask.

**Ans. (iii)** The information sought from the Minister of Women and Child Development :

- Whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has asked all State Governments to ban junk foods in schools and also for setting up nutrition standards. If so, the details thereof.
- Whether the Union Government has ensured the compliance of the above standards by the States. If so, the details thereof.

(ii) If I were a Member of Parliament, I would like to ask the following two questions :

- What is the government doing to ensure education to every child?
- Women still lag behind men. What is the government doing to bring women at the level of men?

7. Looking at this table would you say that people's participation during the past 50 years has: decreased/increased/been stable after initial increase?

Lok Sabha	Election Year	Voter Turnout (%)
1st	1951-52	44.87
4th	1967	61.04
5th	1971	55.27
6th	1977	60.49
8th	1984	63.56
10th	1991	56.73
14th	2004	58.07

Source: [www.eci.gov.in](http://www.eci.gov.in)

[NCERT Textbook, page 39]

**Ans.** The people's participation during the past 50 years has been fluctuating from one election to another.

8. Why do you think there are so few women in Parliament? Discuss.

[NCERT Textbook, page 40]

**Ans.** Our society is still a male-dominating society. People do not want to accept women as rulers. So, they avoid giving power to them.

## TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

### Let's Recall

Q. 1. Why do you think nationalist movement supported the idea that all adults have a right to vote?

**Ans.** The nationalist movement became successful because people from various backgrounds joined it. With the coming of independence, it was felt that all persons in independent India should participate in making decisions. The government must be sensitive to people's needs and demands. It is, therefore, the constitution of independent India laid down the principle of universal adult franchise i.e., that all adult citizens of the country have a right to vote. By exercising this right, people (adults) would participate in the functioning of the government through their representatives. This is the essence of a democratic government.

Q. 2. In this 2004 map of Parliamentary constituencies alongside, roughly identify the constituencies in your State. What is name of the MP from your constituency? How many MPs does your state have? Why are certain constituencies coloured green while others are coloured blue?

For map please see NCERT Textbook, page 41.

**Ans.** • I live in the state of Delhi. The total number of the constituencies is 7. They are:

- (i) East Delhi
- (ii) Chandni Chowk
- (iii) North-East Delhi
- (iv) New Delhi
- (v) North-West Delhi
- (vi) West Delhi
- (vii) South Delhi

- The name of the MP from my constituency (East Delhi) - Mr. Sandeep Dixit.

- There are seven MPs in my state,
- Certain constituencies are coloured green while others are coloured blue because they are reserved constituencies for ST and SC respectively.

Q. 3. You have read in Chapter 1 that the 'Parliamentary form of government' that exists in India has three tiers. This includes the Parliament (central government) and the various State Legislatures (state governments). Fill in the following table with information on the various representatives from your area:

	<i>State Government</i>	<i>Central Government</i>
Which political party/ parties is/are currently in power?		
Who (name) is the current representative from your area?		
Which political parties currently form the Opposition?		
When were election last held?		
When will the next elections be held?		
How many women representatives are there (from your state)?		

**Ans.** Take the help of your teacher to write the information related to your own area/state. This is a sample solution for NCT Delhi, as I live in the East Delhi parliamentary constituency.

	<i>State Government</i>	<i>Central Government</i>
Which political party/ parties is/are currently in power?	<i>Congress</i>	UPA (United Progressive Alliance) It is a coalition govt.
Who (name) is the current representative from your area?	Mr. Ashok Kumar Walia	Mr. Sandeep Dixit
Which political parties currently form the Opposition?	BJP	NDA, BSP, CPM etc.
When were elections last held?	2008	2009
When will the next elections be held?	2013	2014
How many women representatives are there (from your state)?	4	1