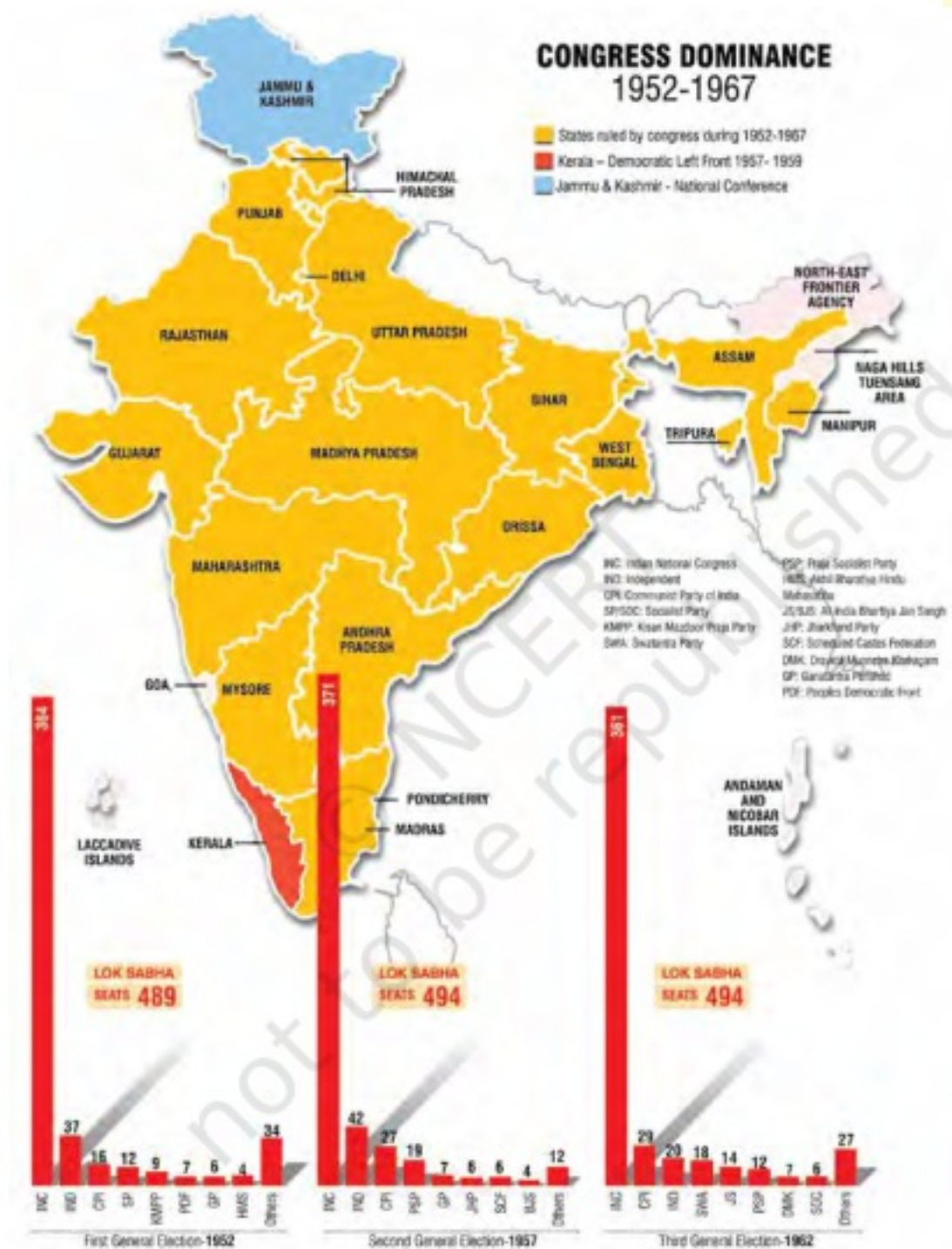


CBSE Test Paper 02

Class 12 - Political Science (B-2 Ch-2 Era of One-party Dominance)

1. Fabian socialism is also called _____.
 - a. Liberalism
 - b. Marxism
 - c. Democratic socialism
 - d. Capitalism
2. When was the Constitution of India ready and signed by members of the Constituent Assembly? When did it come into effect?
3. Who was the founder of Bhartiya Jana Sangh?
4. "In India, hero-worship plays a part in its politics unequalled in magnitude by the part it plays in the politics of any other country But in politics, hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and eventual dictatorship" -Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Analyse the statement.
5. Define 'one party dominance' and 'one party system'.
6. What is meant by coalition government? When was the coalition government formed for the first time at the centre?
7. Highlight the changes introduced in the voting methods in India after 1952.
8. What distinguished the dominance of the Congress Party in India from the one-party dominance in other countries? Explain.
9. Who formed the Bhartiya Jana Sangh and when? How was this party different from other political parties.
10. How was one party dominance of India different from the other examples of one party dominance in the world?
11. Study the following map carefully. Answer the questions given below it:
 - i. Which year the first, second and third general elections were held?
 - ii. Write the names of any eight states which were ruled by Congress during 1952-1967.
 - iii.
 - a. Which southern Indian state was ruled by Democratic Left Front 1957-1959?
 - b. In 1952-1967 which political party ruled Jammu and Kashmir?



12. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions:

This coalition-like character of Congress gave it an unusual strength. Firstly, a coalition accommodates all those who join it. Therefore, it has to avoid any extreme position and strike a balance on almost all issues. Compromise and inclusiveness are the hallmarks of a coalition. This strategy put the opposition in difficulty. Anything that the opposition wanted to say, would also find a place in the programme and ideology of the Congress. Secondly, in a party that has the nature of a condition, there

is a greater tolerance of internal differences and ambitions of various groups and leaders are accommodated. Congress did both these things during the freedom struggle and Continued doing this even after Independence. That is why, even if a group was not happy with the position of the party or with its share of power, it would remain inside the party and fight the other groups rather than leaving the party and becoming an 'opposition'.

Questions

- i. What do you mean by a faction?
 - ii. How did coalition-like character affect the nature of Congress Party?
 - iii. How did Congress avoid to increase the number of 'opposition'?
13. Evaluate the importance of opposition in a parliamentary democracy. Which kind of role was played by the opposition in India during the first three Parliaments from 1952 to 1967?

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Answer

1. c. Democratic socialism

Explanation: It is a British socialist society having partially the principle of liberalism. So it is also defined democratic socialism.

2. The Republic is governed in terms of the Constitution of India which was ready and signed by Members of Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949. It came into effect on 26th January 1950.
3. On 21st October 1951, Bhartiya Jan Sangh(BJS) was started by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in Delhi.
4. On November 25, 1949, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar spoke of the need to give up the grammar of anarchy, to avoid hero-worship, and to work towards a social – not just a political – democracy. This statement speaks of accommodating diversities by the leader of India which was a challenging path to democracy. Our leaders wanted to represent politics as a way of solution of problems in place of making politics a problem.
5. 'One party dominance' simply means dominance of one party in a democratic setup. 'One-party dominance' in the Indian context means that the Congress won the majority of seats in the first three general elections in 1952,1957 and 1962 under democratic conditions where free and fair elections and the results were accepted by all. On the other hand, one party system means the existence of only one party in the country for e.g. the Communist Party in China.
6. Coalition government is a government which is formed by different political parties coming together on the basis of common minimum programme. A coalition government is a cabinet of parliamentary government in which several parties cooperate. In this two or more party form alliance to contest elections. It generally happens when no party gets a majority in the parliament and several parties join together to prove their majority. In 1977, the first time coalition government was formed at the centre under the PM Morarji Desai.
7. Changes introduced in the voting methods in India after 1952 are as follows: These days we use an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) to record voters' preferences. But that is not how we started. In the first general election, it was decided to place inside

each polling booth a box for each candidate with the election symbol of that candidate. Each voter was given a blank ballot paper which they had to drop into the box of the candidate they wanted to vote for. About 20 lakh steel boxes were used for this purpose. After the first two general elections, this method was changed. Now the ballot paper carried the names and symbols of all the candidates and the voter was required to put a stamp on the name of the candidate they wanted to vote for. This method worked for nearly forty years. Towards the end of 1990s, the Election Commission started using the EVM. By 2004 the entire country had shifted to the EVM.

8. One-party dominance in India and other country have dissimilarities:

- In India democracy was not featured by the dominance of one party. Indian political system is a multi-party system. During 1952 to 1962, in every election, the Congress party won the elections. Elections held at regular intervals in India in a free and fair atmosphere. Many other political parties also participated but charismatic, effective and inspiring leadership of Congress leaders and the glorious legacy of Congress party continue the dominance of the Congress party in India.
- In India multiparty system prevails whereas in other countries like China and Russia dominance of one party was due to the structure one-party system. In Countries like China, Cuba, Syria and Mexico, the Constitution permit only a single party to rule the country.
- Mexico's PRI dominated for about 6 decades, but finally, it turned into a dictatorship. In these countries, the election was often rigged and manipulated but in India, all things have been done in the light of democracy.
- There has never been a military takeover in India, like in Myanmar and Egypt.

9. i. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was formed in 1951 with Shyama Prasad Mukherjee as its founder-President. It's lineage, however, can be traced back to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh(RSS) and the Hindu Mahasabha before independence.

ii. This party different from other political parties as:

- a. Mainly focused on one country, one culture, and one nation and believed that the country could become modern, progressive and strong on the basis of Indian culture and traditions.
- b. Reunion of India and Pakistan in Akhand Bharat.
- c. Replaced English with Hindi as the official language of India and was also

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- opposed to the granting of concessions to religious and cultural minorities.
- d. In 1964 the party was a consistent advocate of India developing nuclear weapons especially after China carried out its atomic tests.
10. India is not the only country to have dominance of one party but we have some other examples also for the same. But the dominance of one party in India does not compromise democratic spirit of constitution whereas other nations have compromised it:
- i. In India multiparty system prevails where as in other countries like China and Russia dominance of one party was due to the structure one party system.
 - ii. In India, there has never been military takeover like in Myanmar and Egypt and Belarus.
 - iii. In India, Congress dominates on behalf of free and fair elections based on democracy where the losing of other party is also fair.
11. i. a. The first general election after independence was held in 1952.
b. The second general election was held in 1957.
c. The third general election was held in 1962.
- ii. The following states were ruled by Congress during 1952-1967:
- a. Punjab
 - b. Rajasthan
 - c. Gujarat
 - d. Madhya Pradesh
 - e. Maharashtra
 - f. Mysore (nowadays called Karnataka)
 - g. Madras (now Tamil Nadu)
 - h. Andhra Pradesh
 - i. Orissa
 - j. Bihar
 - k. West Bengal (write any eight).
- iii. a. Kerala was ruled by Democratic Left Front in 1957-1959.
b. Jammu and Kashmir were ruled by National Conference.
12. i. Factions are the groups formed inside the party i.e. coalitions made in Congress created various factions which were based on either ideological considerations or personal ambitions.

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- ii. The Coalition-like character of Congress accommodated all social diversities and maintained a balance on almost all issues. Even a proper space for the programmes and ideology of the opposite parties were also given. In such a way Congress showed greater tolerance towards internal differences and ambitions of various groups and leaders.
 - iii. Along with its coalition-like character of the Congress gave it an unusual strength. Congress did not let the groups leave the party to become an opposition.
13. Importance of opposition in parliamentary democracy:
- a. Virtually, the opposition is an integral part of parliamentary democracy.
 - b. In our democracy, the opposition parties got only token representation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in the 1950s. However, their thin presence played a thick and crucial role in preserving the democratic character of the system. The opposition parties did a sustained and principled criticism of the policies and programmes of the ruling party.
 - c. The opposition parties prevented the resentment with the parliamentary system from turnings anti-democratic. The opposition parties also groomed several political stalwarts who were to play a significant role in the shopping of our parliamentary democracy.

Nature of role played by the opposition in India during the First Three Parliaments from 1952 to 1967:

- a. Though there were ideological differences yet democratic norms and values were followed.
- b. In the beginning, there was mutual respect and political tolerance. However, politic competition became more intense and the Congress found it difficult to maintain its dominance. The opposition was enlarging its political space. Opposition parties were in the forefront in criticizing the government. Now, the opposition parties realized that the division of their votes kept the Congress in power.
- c. In this way, the political parties that had entirely different political programmes and ideologies came together to form anti-congress fronts. By 1967, the political discontent was increasing and the process of political polarisation changed the existing political equations.