

Working of Institutions

Source Based Questions

Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The Office Memorandum was the culmination of a long chain of events. The Government of India had appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979. It was headed by B.P. Mandal. Hence, it was popularly called the Mandal Commission. It was asked to determine the criteria to identify the socially and educationally backward classes in India and recommend steps to be taken for their advancement. The Commission gave its Report in 1980 and made many recommendations. One of these was that 27 per cent of government jobs be reserved for the socially and educationally backward classes. The Report and recommendations were discussed in the Parliament.

Q1. When was Second Backward Classes Commission appointed?

- a. 1969
- b. 1971
- c. 1979
- d. 1981

Ans. (c)

Q2. Why was this commission called the Mandal Commission?

- a. It was headed by B.P. Mandal.
- b. It was the highest formal authority appointed by the Government of India.
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of the above

Ans. (a)

Q3. When did the commission give its report?

- a. 1969
- b. 1971
- c. 1979
- d. 1980

Ans. (d)

Q4. Why was Mandal Commission appointed by the Indian Government?

- a. To determine the criteria to identify the socially and economically backward classes in India.
- b. To ensure security to the citizens.
- c. To see the welfare of all and keep in view the overall objectives.
- d. All of the above

Ans. (a)

Q5. Why did people react strongly on approval of the recommendations of Mandal Commission by Indian Government?

- a. It affected the lives of people.
- b. It affected thousands of job opportunities of the people belonging to general category.
- c. It brought inequality among the people of India.
- d. It hampered the national unity of India.

Ans. (b)

Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): According to Mandal Commission, 28 per cent of government jobs are reserved for socially and educationally backward classes.

Reason (R): Many parliamentarians and parties kept demanding the implementation of commission's recommendations.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. (d)

Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Since Parliament plays a central role in modern democracies, most large countries divide the role and powers of Parliament in two parts. They are called Chambers or Houses. One House is usually directly elected by the people and exercises the real power on behalf of the people. The second House is usually elected indirectly and performs some special functions. The most common work for the second House is to look after the interests of various states, regions or federal units. In our country, Parliament consists of two Houses. The two Houses are known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). The President of India is a part of Parliament, although she is not a member of either House. That is why all laws made in the Houses come into force only after they receive the assent of the President.

Q1. Which of the following Houses is directly elected by the people and exercises the real power on behalf of the people?

- a. Lok Sabha
- b. Rajya Sabha
- c. Parliament
- d. Cabinet

Ans. (a)

Q2. Whose assent is required to be received to enforce all laws made in the Houses?

- a. Prime Minister
- b. President
- c. Cabinet
- d. Political Executive

Ans. (b)

Q3. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the financial powers of the Lok Sabha.

- a. It controls the national finances.
- b. It has the power to pass the annual budget of the Union Government for the financial year.
- c. Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters.

d. It cannot reject a Money Bill but can only make recommendations for changes in the Bill.

Ans. (d)

Q4. Which of the following looks after the interests of various states, regions or federal units?

- a. Lok Sabha
- b. Rajya Sabha
- c. Parliament
- d. Permanent Executive

Ans. (b)

Q5. Why is the view of Lok Sabha becomes important in case of any conflict?

- a. It controls the Council of Ministers.
- b. It has large number of members.
- c. It is more powerful than Rajya Sabha.
- d. It exercises the real power on behalf of the people.

Ans. (b)

Q6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A): The members of the Lok Sabha are nominated by the President.

Reason (R): It can be dissolved before the expiry of the tenure.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

Ans. (d)

Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows:

The President is not elected directly by the people. The elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) elect her. A candidate standing for President's post has to get a majority of votes to win the election. This ensures that the President can be seen to represent the entire nation. At the same time the President can never claim the kind of direct popular mandate that the Prime Minister can. This ensures that she remains only a nominal executive.

The same is true of the powers of the President. If you casually read the Constitution, you would think that there is nothing that she cannot do. All governmental activities take place in the name of the President.

Q1. Who elects the President?

Ans. The President is not elected directly by the people but by the elected Members of Parliaments (MPs) and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

Q2. How can it be said that the President remains only a nominal executive?

Ans. The President remains only a nominal executive because of the following reasons:

- (i) He represents the entire nation.
- (ii) He can never claim the kind of direct popular mandate that the Prime Minister can.

Q3. What are the activities performed in the name of the President?

Ans. The President can perform the following activities in his name:

- (i) All governmental activities take place in his name.
- (ii) All laws and major policy decisions of the government are issued in her name.
- (iii) All major appointments are made in the name of the President such as that of Chief Justice of India, the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts of the states, the Governors of the States etc.