

3. Political Parties

Q.1 Choose the correct option from the given options and complete the sentences :

(1) When people come together and participate in electoral process to acquire political power, such organisations are called

- (a) Government
- (b) Society
- (c) Political parties**
- (d) social organisations

(2) National Conference is a party in State.

- (a) Orissa
- (b) Assam
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir**

(3) Justice Party-a non-Brahmin movement was transformed into Political Party.

- (a) Assam Gan Parishad (b) Shivsena
- (c) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam**
- (d) National Conference

Q. 2 State whether the following statements are true or false. Give reasons for your answer:

(1) Political parties act as a link between government and the people.

Ans. The above statement is True.

- (1) The political parties convey the demands and complaints of the people to the government.
- (2) Information about various government policies and schemes are conveyed to the people by the political parties.
- (3) People's reaction to the policies and their expectations are conveyed to the government too by the parties.

In this way, political parties act as a link between government and the people.

(2) Political parties are social organisations.

Ans. The above statement is True.

- (1) People who have similar views come together voluntarily and form a party, so it can be said that political parties are an integral part of our society.
- (2) The political parties try to solve problems of the people.

(3) Some political parties represent the role of a particular community in society, its ideology and work to achieve it.

Hence it can be said that political parties are social organizations.

(3) Coalition politics leads to instability.

Ans. The above statement is False.

(1) As no single party got majority after the elections held in 1989, coalition government came to power at the centre and many states.

(2) Parties had to set aside their policies and programmes and concentrate on a common agenda to run the government.

(3) After the experiment failed in 1977, the National Democratic Alliance and the Democratic Front government ruled at the centre and state level effectively.

Therefore, the belief that coalition government brings instability was proved wrong.

(4) Shiromani Akali Dal is a national party.

Ans. The above statement is False.

The Election Commission of India recognises a political party as National or Regional party on the basis of specific criteria namely:

(1) The number of seats secured in Parliament and Legislative Assembly or percentage of votes

secured.

(2) Shiromani Akali Dal does not meet the criteria listed above.

(3) As its influence is limited to the state of Punjab and not in any other state.

The Election Commission has given recognition to it as regional party.

3. Explain the following concept:

(1) Regionalism

Ans: The feeling of affinity developed about one's own language and region, gradually turns into the identity consciousness and it gives rise to regionalism.

People think primarily about the interest and development of their own region.

(2) National Party :

Ans. A party which functions at the national level is known as National Party.

(1) The Election Commission has laid certain criteria for a party to get recognised as a Political party. The political party should secure at least 6% valid votes in four or more states in the earlier Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections and minimum four members should be elected in the Lok Sabha from any state or states in the earlier elections. OR (2) The candidates of a party should be elected from minimum three states or should be elected from minimum 2% constituencies of the total Lok Sabha constituencies. OR (3) It is important to get recognition as a state party in at least four states.

5. Answer the following questions in brief :

1) What are the major characteristics of political parties?

Ans. The main features of political parties are as follows:

- (1) Political parties aim at securing power by contesting elections.
- (2) Every political party has some ideology.
- (3) Every party has an agenda. It is based on the party's ideology.
- (4) The party that gets majority seats in election forms the government and the one that does not secure the majority act as opposition parties.
- (5) Political parties are a link between the people and the government and work to gain the support of the people.

(2) What changes have taken place in the nature of political parties in India?

Ans. The following changes were seen in the party system in India:

- (1) Indian National Congress was the only dominant party in states and at the centre after independence.
- (2) All other parties came together and formed coalition in 1977 and defeated the Congress. For the first time in history the two party system got importance over one party system.
- (3) One party system came to an end after the 1999 elections.
- (4) Regional parties got importance and coalition government was formed at the centre.