

# 3

## THE STATE GOVERNMENT (PART-II)

1. In the previous chapter you have learned how a state government is formed.  
How are MLAs elected to form the government?,  
How is a Chief Minister selected?,  
Who appoints the Chief Minister?

A government has three main functions – to make laws, to execute the laws and to ensure justice for all the people. In this chapter we shall learn how laws are formed and how they are executed.

1. People living in Chhattisgarh follow the laws of which state?
2. Will a law made by the Chhattisgarh government apply in Orissa?
3. Will a law made by the Government of India apply in Maharashtra?

### Why do we need laws?

In our country people earn their living in different ways. Some are farmers, some are labourers, some are rich, some are poor, some run shops, some teach. We need laws to provide facilities for people so that they can earn a living. We need laws to keep people safe and let them live in peace. Laws help the country to develop and progress.

Laws are made by the government. Let us look at the example of our transportation system. We need buses, taxis and trains to move from one place to another. These vehicles need permits to ply regularly. They need drivers who are qualified to drive. We also need rules for buying and selling vehicles.

Similarly, when we buy or sell land or any other property we have to register the sale with the village *patwari*. The *patwari* keeps a map of the land with the name of its new owner in his records.

1. Why does the government make laws?
2. What would happen if a person in a village sells his land and the sale is not registered in the records of the *patwari*? Discuss.
3. What would happen if drivers do not require a permit from the government to ply their vehicles on the road?



**fig -3.1 Discussion in Legislative assembly**

The Janta Mission Party formed the government in Purab Pradesh. This government ruled the state for five years. During this period, the Legislative Assembly met several times. It discussed the problems the state was facing during these meetings. It took many decisions to solve these problems.

There are many issues and the MLAs can also ask questions from the ministers. If an MLA asks why the price of wheat is rising and what the government is doing to control prices, the Finance Minister has to give the answer. If a question is asked about why there are not enough teachers in schools, the Education Minister has to answer. The Urban Development Minister has to answer questions related to the development of cities. Sometimes, the MLAs are not satisfied by the answers given, so they criticize the ministers.

### **Law for paying minimum wages**

Let us see what happens in the Legislative Assembly to find out how laws are made.

The government of Purab Pradesh was worried that labourers in the state were not earning enough money to live a decent life. So the cabinet of ministers decided to pass a law to raise the minimum wage of labourers to improve their condition. The Labour Minister prepared a proposal which he placed before the Legislative Assembly. The proposal, called a 'Bill', was circulated among the MLAs on the first day.

### **The proposed law is called bill.**

While presenting the Bill, the Labour Minister said, "Our factories are producing more and more goods every year. Our farmers are also getting better harvests. But the wages of labourers has not increased. Several labour unions have been demanding an increase in wages. Some factories have also gone on strike and this is affecting their production. The demand of the labourers is genuine

and the government is concerned about their welfare. Keeping this in mind I have introduced this proposal (bill) to raise the minimum wage of factory labourers from Rs70 per day to Rs100 per day and of farm labourers and construction labourers from Rs50 per day to Rs70 per day. You have copies of the bill, please read it carefully."

The MLAs read the bill carefully and then discussed it for several days. Every point was discussed in detail. Some MLAs supported the bill and spoke in its favour, while some were against it. Some MLAs suggested changes in some of its points.

### Discussion on the Bill

Members of Janata Mission Party supported the bill. They said most of the people are farm labourers and our state cannot develop until their conditions improve.

Members of Bharat Party opposed the bill. One of their MLAs said, "I will not support this bill because women and men should get equal wages for equal work. We already have a law for this but it is not practised. Even today women get less wages than men."

A woman MLA of Janata Mission Party replied, "Our government will ensure that labourers are paid according to new rates. We will see to it that men and women get the same wages."

After a lot of discussion on the bill, the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly finally said, "We have discussed the matter thoroughly so we shall vote on the bill tomorrow."

Thirty eight Janata Mission MLAs and two MLAs of other parties supported the bill. But Bharat Party MLAs and MLAs of other parties opposed it. There were 40 votes in favour of the bill and 29 votes against it. The bill was passed in the Legislative Assembly.

The bill was then sent to the Governor for his signature. Once he signs the bill it



3.2 Votes on Bill

becomes a law and is published in the government gazette.

The gazette is sent to officers like the District Magistrate. It is their responsibility to see that every labourer gets the increased wage decided by the Legislative Assembly.

This is how laws are made in the Legislative Assembly. First a bill or proposal is presented to the Legislative Assembly. The bill is then discussed in detail by the MLAs. Some changes may be made in some of its points. The bill is passed only if more than half the MLAs present in the Legislative Assembly vote for it.

1. How many votes are needed to pass a bill in Purab Pradesh Legislative Assembly?
2. Why should a majority of the MLAs vote in favour of the bill to pass it ? Discuss with your teacher.

### Process of making law :-

As we know that at legislative assembly laws like law and order situation and education, etc are prepared . Before making it a law, a bill is proposed on the proposed subject, then the law is proposed and it is put on the legislative assembly. And then there is thorough discussion on it, if the bill needs some changes then the changes are made in the bill. If more than 50% of the MLA's are in favour of the bill then only the bill is passed.

### Minimum wage law is not followed

The people of Gopalpura were happy with the new law on minimum wages. The construction workers knew they would now get daily wages at the increased rate of Rs70 per day. Some days later a construction project began at Kharaya. Labourers were hired on a contract basis. Several women were also hired. But they were paid only Rs40 per day. They lodged a complaint with the local officer and the Collector. The Collector asked the Chief Executive Officer of the Panchayat to investigate the matter and ensure that the correct wages were given. When the Panchayat CEO found that the labourers were being underpaid, he reprimanded the contractor and ordered him to pay the correct wage.

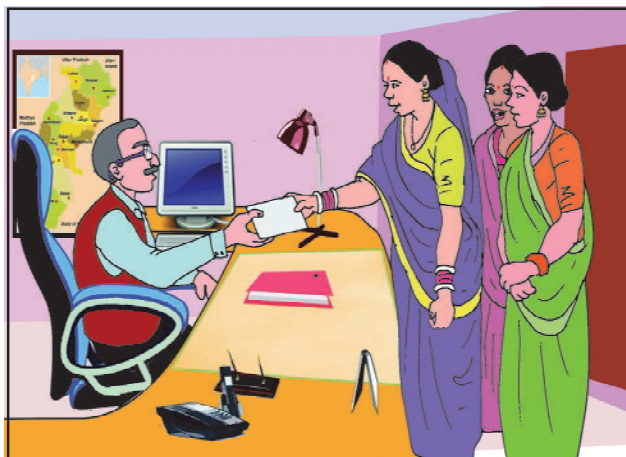


fig-3.3 (Women giving complaint to collector)

1. Was it right or wrong on the part of the Kharaya builder to pay low wages? Discuss with your teacher.
2. Do labourers in your area get the wages decided by the government?
3. To whom did the female labourers complain? What was their complaint?
4. What should labourers do if they get lower wages than the minimum decided by the government?
5. By observing the fig 3.3 what information do you get?

## Executing the law

The Legislative Assembly formulates the laws. It is the job of the cabinet of ministers to ensure that the laws are properly executed. For this, the cabinet takes the help of government officers and employees like the Collector, Tehsildar, police, *patwari* etc. The salaries of these officials are paid by the state government so they have to obey the government's orders.

### EXERCISES

#### I. Fill in the blanks:

- 1) There is one representative of the Central Government in each state. He is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) It is the duty of the \_\_\_\_\_ to execute the laws made by Legislative Assembly.
- 3) The party which gets a \_\_\_\_\_ forms the government.

#### II. Answer the following questions

- 1) The laws of which government apply to the following:
  - a. Central government and Chhattisgarh government.
  - b. Chhattisgarh government.
  - c. Madhya Pradesh government.
- 2) What do you mean by a political party?
- 3) What are the three main aspects of the election process?
- 4) Who can become the Chief Minister of a state?
- 5) What is the difference between a Panch and an MLA?
- 6) Write in your own words how the minimum wage law was passed in Punjab Pradesh?
- 7) The functions of the Legislative Assembly and the Chief Minister are given below. Make a table listing their work separately.  
make laws for the state, distribute portfolios to ministers, ask questions on the work of ministers, pass the budget, preside over cabinet meetings.

#### III. Write two sentences for each of the following:

1. Candidate
2. Party
3. MLA
4. Bill
5. Law
6. Cabinet

#### Things to Do :-

Enact a play in which a law is used to solve a problem. Take help from your teacher.

