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THE STATE GOVERNMENT (PART-I)

1. What do you know about the Government of Chattisgarh?
2. Make a list of people from your locality who are in the government.
3. How are governments formed? Discuss with your teacher.

India has two types of governments. One is central government and second is state government. Like Chattisgarh state have one government and there are state governments for Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. They make laws and rules for their own states. The central government makes laws and rules for the whole country. How is election done in state government ? How is government formed? To know this let us read the story.

The story of a legislator

This is the story of an imaginary state called Purab Pradesh and constituency Gopalpur is described. The names of the people, political parties and constituencies of the legislative assembly in the state are fictitious. But the way elections to the legislative assembly are held and the rules governing the elections are not imaginary. They are real.

Gopalpur is a constituency of the legislative assembly of Purab Pradesh. The state has 70 constituencies.

Purab Pradesh recently announced that it would hold elections to the legislative assembly. Several political parties declared that they would participate in the elections. Among them were the Bharat Party and Janata Mission Party.

These two parties are the main contestants in Gopalpur. Ram Prasad is the candidate of the Bharat Party and Mrs Pallavi Bai is the candidate of the Janata Mission Party.

1. How many constituencies does Purab Pradesh have?
2. Which party is represented by Mrs Pallavi Bai?
3. Ram Prasad is contesting from which party?

Many candidates from different parties contest elections. How do the voters decide which candidate to vote for? To find out, let us continue with our story.

Election campaign in Gopalpur

The elections in Purab Pradesh are to be held on 20th January. But people are busy campaigning. Before 15-20 days the candidates from different parties



figure 2.1. Election Campaign

and their supporters are organizing rallies and using loudspeakers mounted on jeeps, motorcycles and taxis. Children roam around wearing the badges of different parties. The candidates assure the people that they will make every effort to help the poor. They promise many things to the people. They will provide jobs for unemployed people. Farmers will get leases for their land. Every village will provide water, electricity, schools and hospitals. They carry banners, posters and badges with their names written on them.

Political rally of Pallavi Bai

Pallavi Bai, the candidate of Janata Mission Party, held a large political rally in Gol Maidan of Gopalpur on 11th January. Many senior leaders of her party attended the rally. A pamphlet carrying a photograph of Pallavi Bai and the symbol of her party was distributed to the people. The pamphlet gave details of all the work Pallavi Bai had done for Gopalpur and the new projects she would take up if her Janata Mission Party won the election and formed the government of Purab Pradesh.

Some of the leaders gave speeches. Pallavi Bai also addressed the gathering. She told the people about the work she had done in the constituency. She had got a small dam constructed for irrigation. Pucca rooms were built for several schools and many roads were constructed to connect the villages with the main road.



Figure -2.2 Rally of Pallavi Bai

She said that if she was elected and her party formed the government she would provide many extra facilities like school, a hospital, supply of drinking water and so on. She would also set up several new factories so that people would get employment. They would not have to migrate to cities to look for jobs. Thus the speech of pallavi bai in the public meeting came to an end.

After the meeting, people gathered at the tea stall to discuss what Pallavi Bai had said. One man said, "This time Bharat Party might win because Pallavi Bai's party has done nothing except raise the prices of everything." Another man reminded him, "Prices have risen in the whole country not just in Purab Pradesh." Someone else said, "Prices have risen but not our salaries." Yet another said, "The previous government did nothing when there was a drought."

Just then someone came rushing to the tea stall. He was very excited. He told the people that members of Bharat Party had been caught distributing blankets in Phool *basti*. Someone commented, "So what! Janata Mission Party members had also distributed saris in *Gajar gali*."

The election campaign came to an end on the evening of 18th November.

According to the story -

1. How many constituencies are there in state of purab pradesh?
2. From which constituency was Ram prasad fighting for election.
3. Why do political parties conduct election campaigns?
4. Why do people distribute pamphlets and posters during elections?
5. Why is it wrong to distribute blankets, saris and money in election campaigns?
Discuss with your teacher.
6. Why is Election campaigning stopped one day before the election ? Discuss with your teacher.

Legislative Assembly

We learned about the Gram Panchayat elections in Class VI. Every village is divided into several wards and a *Panch* is elected from each ward. In elections to the Legislative Assembly, the whole state is divided into constituencies. A Panchayat ward has 50 to 100 voters. The number of voters in a constituency of the Legislative Assembly could be a lakh or more.

Lakhs of people live in villages, towns and cities, spread across the country. Some big cities have several lakhs of people living in them so they can have more than one constituency. For example, Raipur has two constituencies.

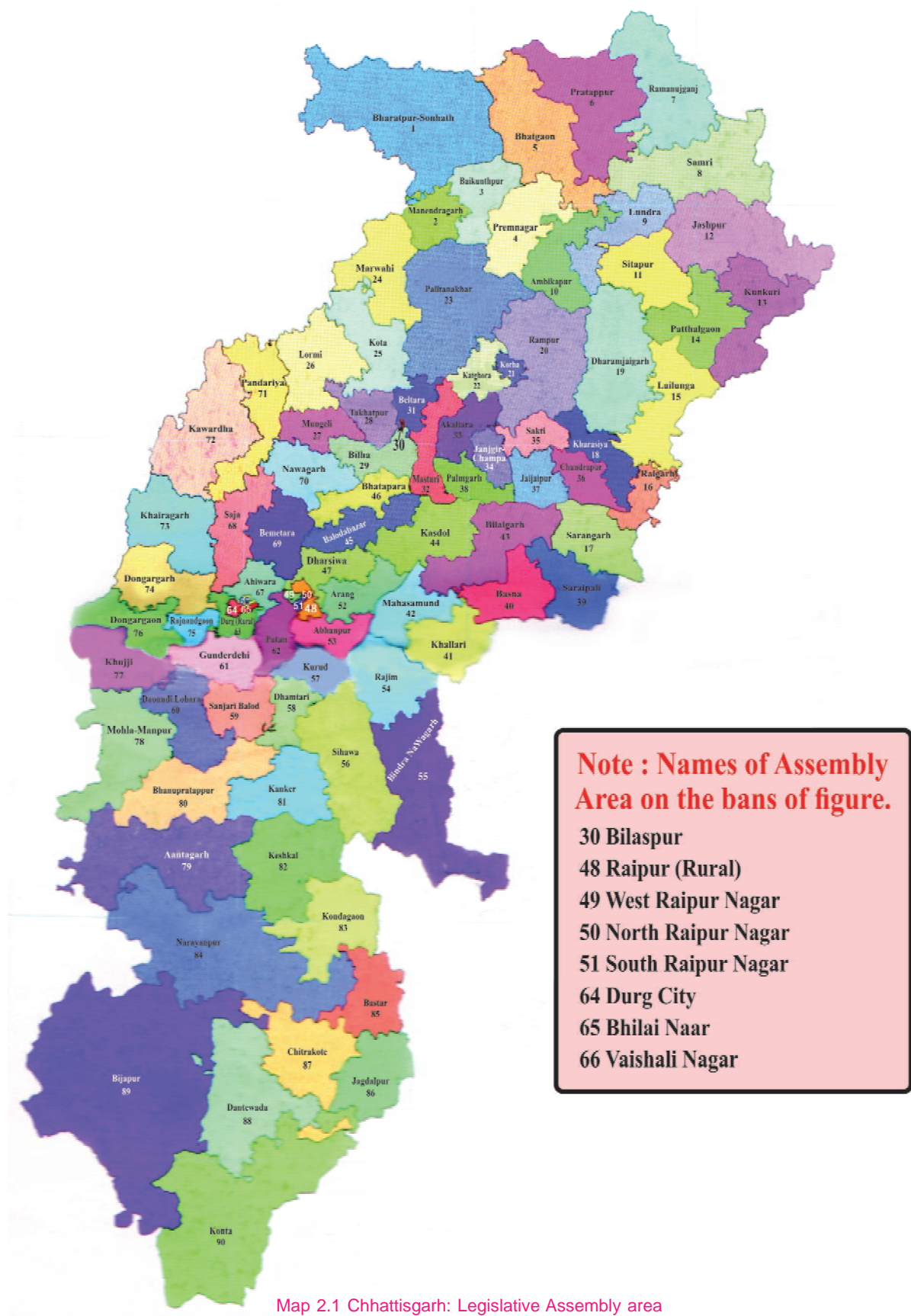
Each constituency elects one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Chhattisgarh state has 90 constituencies.

Legislative Contituency of Chhattisgarh
(Legislative Contituency Number and District)

S. No.	Legislative Contituency No.	Legislative Contituency	Name of District
1	1	Bharatpur-Sonhath	Koriya
2	2	Manendra garh	Koriya
3	3	Baikunthpur	Koriya
4	4	Premnagar	Surajpur
5	5	Bhatgaon	Surajpur
6	6	Pratappur	Balrampur, Surajpur
7	7	Ramanujganj	Balrampur
8	8	Samri	Balrampur
9	9	Lundra	Surguja
10	10	Ambikapur	Surguja
11	11	Sitapur	Surguja
12	12	Jashpur	Jashpur
13	13	Kunkuri	Jashpur
14	14	Patthalgaon	Jashpur
15	15	Lailunga	Raigarh
16	16	Raigarh	Raigarh
17	17	Sarangarh	Raigarh
18	18	Kharasiya	Raigarh
19	19	Dharamjaigarh	Raigarh
20	20	Rampur	Korba
21	21	Korba	Korba
22	22	Katghora	Korba
23	23	Pali - Tanakhar	Korba
24	24	Marwahi	Gaurella-Pendra-Marwahi
25	25	Kota	Bilaspur
26	26	Lormi	Mungeli
27	27	Mungeli	Mungeli
28	28	Takhatpur	Bilaspur
29	29	Bilha	Bilaspur, Mungeli
30	30	Bilaspur	Bilaspur

31	31	Beltara	Bilaspur
32	32	Masturi	Bilaspur
33	33	Akaltara	Janjgir-Champa
34	34	Janjgir-Champa	Janjgir-Champa
35	35	Sakti	Janjgir-Champa
36	36	Chandrapur	Janjgir-Champa
37	37	Jaijaipur	Janjgir-Champa
38	38	Palmgarh	Janjgir-Champa
39	39	Saraipali	Mahasamund
40	40	Basna	Mahasamund
41	41	Khallari	Mahasamund
42	42	Mahasamund	Mahasamund
43	43	Bilaigarh	Balodabazar -Bhatapara
44	44	Kasdol	Balodabazar -Bhatapara
45	45	Balodabazar	Balodabazar-Bhatapara, Raipu
46	46	Bhatapara	Balodabazar -Bhatapara
47	47	Dharsiwa	Raipur
48	48	Raipur (Rural)	Raipur
49	49	West Raipur Nagar	Raipur
50	50	North Raipur Nagar	Raipur
51	51	South Raipur Nagar	Raipur
52	52	Arang	Raipur
53	53	Abhanpur	Raipur
54	54	Rajim	Gariyaband
55	55	Bindra Nawagarh	Gariyaband
56	56	Sihawa	Dhamtari
57	57	Kurud	Dhamtari
58	58	Dhamtari	Dhamtari
59	59	Sanjari Balod	Balod
60	60	Daoundi Lohara	Balod
61	61	Gunderdehi	Balod

62	62	Patan	Durg
63	63	Durg Rural	Durg
64	64	Durg City	Durg
65	65	Bhilainagar	Durg
66	66	Vaishalinagar	Durg
67	67	Ahiwara	Durg
68	68	Saja	Durg, Bemetara
69	69	Bemetara	Durg, Bemetara
70	70	Nawagarh	Bemetara
71	71	Pandaria	Kabirdham
72	72	Kawardha	Kabirbdham
73	73	Khairagarh	Rajnandgaon
74	74	Dongargarh	Rajnandgaon
75	75	Rajnandgaon	Rajnandgaon
76	76	Dongargaon	Rajnandgaon
77	77	Khujji	Rajnandgaon
78	78	Mohla - Manpur	Rajnandgaon
79	79	Aantagarh	South Bastar Kanker
80	80	Bhanupratappur	South Bastar Kanker
81	81	Kanker	South Bastar Kanker
82	82	Keshkal	Kondagaon
83	83	Kondagaon	Kondagaon
84	84	Narayanpur	Kondagaon, Narayanpur
			Bastar (Jagdalpur)
85	85	Bastar	Bastar Bastar(Jagdalpur)
86	86	Jagdalpur	Bastar (Jagdalpur), Sukma
87	87	Chitrakote	Bastar (Jagdalpur), Sukma
88	88	Dantewada	South Bastar Dantewada
89	89	Bijapur	Bijapur
90	90	Konta	Sukma



Map 2.1 Chhattisgarh: Legislative Assembly area

1. Who is the MLA of your constituency and to which party does he belong?
2. From which legislative assembly does the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh belong to?
3. Which constituency lies to the west of your constituency?

Representatives

Every state has so many people that all of them cannot make laws or take important decisions. It is not possible to include everyone in the government. So a method was adopted in which people elected one person from their constituency to represent them in the government. This elected person is known as government's representative. In this way, the central and state governments are formed in our country.

The persons who represent different constituencies are called MLAs. It is their responsibility to know the opinions and needs of the people in their constituency. It is their duty to listen to the people's problems and try to solve them by placing them before the government.

1. Choose the correct alternative
 1. Representative means
 - a. A person elected by people from a constituency.
 - b. A person appointed by government.
 - c. A well known person of that constituency.
 2. In our story, how many representatives will Purab Pradesh elect?
 3. How many will be elected from Gopalpur?
 4. Why is it necessary to elect a representative? Discuss in class.

Political parties

An organization that forms a government or influences its working is called a political party. Political parties participate in elections. They consist of people who have a common vision or ideology. They formulate policies to solve the problems of the people.

For example, a political party may believe that the people are poor because they do not have jobs and they remain unemployed because there are not enough jobs for all of them. They cannot even earn a living by farming or any other means because they don't have land or money. Another political party may believe that poverty and unemployment have increased because there is a population explosion in the country.

Every political party is recognized by its symbol and flag.

In Chhattisgarh, the main political parties are the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Communist Party of India (CPI) and Communist Party of India - Marxist (CPM).

1. Which are the main political parties of Purab Pradesh?
2. How are political parties recognized?
3. What are the main functions of political parties?

Party candidates

Political parties contest many different kinds of elections. They include elections of the Legislative Assembly and the Lok Sabha. They nominate their candidates for each constituency. A candidate is a person who contests the election and tries to win the votes of the people of the constituency. A person who does not belong to a political party can also contest an election. Such a person is called an independent candidate.



Fig 2.3 Electronic Voting Machine

Anyone in the country who wants to contest an election to the Legislative Assembly must be at least 25 years old and must be a citizen of India.

All people who are 18 years of age and above can vote in an election. But they must first register their names in the voters' list.

1. What is a person, contesting an election called?
2. What is the difference between a candidate and a representative?
3. Who can be a voter in an election?

Voting in Gopalpur

Coming back to our story, voting began in the morning of 20th January. There were long queues at the polling stations. One man sat near the entrance of the polling booth. He had a long list of names. The voters first went to him. The man checked whether the name of each voter was on his list. If the voter's name tallied with the list, the man put an indelible mark on the nail of the index finger of the left hand of the voter. He also made the voter sign a register.

The polling booth was in a corner. There was an electronic voting machine. Voters entered the booth and casted their vote by pressing the button against the name of their candidate on the machine.



Fig 2.4 polling booth

In one polling station a voter began arguing with the polling officer. The officer told him, "You have already cast your vote once. Why have you come again?" The voter showed him his nail, saying, "There is no mark on my nail. How can you stop me from voting? You must have struck out my name from the voter's list by mistake or someone else must have cast my vote."

The polling officer finally let him to cast his vote on a ballot paper. The voter ticked the name of his candidate on the ballot paper, put it in an envelope, sealed the envelope and gave it to the polling officer.

The polling in Gopalpur continued till 5:00pm.

1. Take your teacher's help to see the voter's list made for Panchayat election, which is available at the Panchayat Bhawan. Write in your own words all that you see in the voter's list.
2. Why are there several polling stations in each constituency of the Legislative Assembly?
3. Explain in your own words how voting is done with an electronic voting machine.
4. How do we know whether a person has cast his or her vote or not?
5. What is bogus voting? Discuss in class with your teacher's help?

Counting the votes and declaring the results

Two days after the polling, the votes cast in all the 70 constituencies of Purab Pradesh were counted. In Gopalpur the counting was done in the office of the District Magistrate. Most of the people were sitting in front of their TV sets, keeping a track of which candidate was leading and in which constituency. Whenever a candidate won, the members of his party would celebrate by exploding crackers.

By afternoon, counting at all the counting centres was over. Pallavi Bai of Janata Mission Party got 45,202 votes while Ram Prasad of Bharat Party got 40,502 votes. All the other candidates in the constituency got less than 5,000 votes each. Pallavi Bai was declared the winner and became the elected MLA from Gopalpur. By evening the results of all the seats of the Legislative Assembly were declared.

The number of seats won by the different political parties for 70 constituencies is given in the table :

Election Results of Purab Pradesh

S. No.	Political party	Number of seats
1.	Janata Mission Party	38
2.	Bharat Party	28
3.	Other parties	3
4.	Independents	1

1. A person who wins an election from any constituency represents which of the following:

- Those who voted for him.
- Those who did not vote for him.
- All the people of the constituency.

2. Where was counting done in your area for the Legislative Assembly elections?

3. Which party got the most of the seats in the election in Purab Pradesh?

Choose the correct alternative.

The MLAs meet to select their leader

After the election results of Purab Pradesh were declared, the Janata Mission Party MLAs held a meeting to elect their leader. The party had won more than half the seats in the Legislative Assembly. So it had the required majority to form the government.

In Charupur, the capital of Purab Pradesh, the President of the Janata Mission Party was discussing several possible names with senior MLAs to find out who could be chosen the leader. Three names were prominent - Ravi Prasad, Bahoran Bhai and Pallavi Bai.

The meeting began at 3.00pm. Karanlal, the MLA from Shampur, proposed the name of Pallavi Bai as leader of the party. Several MLAs expressed their support. The assembled MLAs were asked if anybody had any objection to Pallavi Bai's name. The majority said no. Pallavi Bai was declared the leader of MLAs of the party.

- What is the minimum number of seats a political party or a group of parties needs to form a government?
- The Legislative Assembly of Purab Pradesh has 70 seats. How many seats is more than half to constitute a simple majority?

Formation of the cabinet in Purab Pradesh

Pallavi Bai met the Governor of Purab Pradesh and informed him that her party had won more than half the seats and that her party MLAs had elected her as their leader. So the Janata Mission Party should be called to form government.

The Government of India appoints its representative from each state. This representative is called the Governor.

On 5th February the Governor of Purab Pradesh appointed Pallavi Bai as the Chief Minister of the state. Pallavi Bai and 12 other MLAs took the oath of office as ministers. They formed the cabinet of the Janata Mission Party government in Purab Pradesh.

1. who will be the chief minister? How will you choose?
2. Who appoints the Chief Minister?
3. Who are the members of the cabinet?

Cabinet of the State Government

Look at the table of election results of Purab Pradesh. The table shows that the Janata Mission Party won 38 seats, which is more than half the total of 70 seats in the Legislative Assembly. The party that gets more than half the total number of seats is called the party in majority. For example, the Legislative Assembly of Himachal Pradesh has 68 seats. The party that wins 35 seats will be called the majority party. If no party wins a majority, then two or more parties can join together to get a majority and form the government. Such a government is called a coalition government.

A party winning a majority in elections to a state Legislative Assembly can elect its leader in the same way that the MLAs of Janata Mission Party in Purab Pradesh elected Pallavi Bai as their leader. The leader of the party MLAs is appointed the Chief Minister by the Governor. The Chief Minister then chooses some members of the party as ministers. The Chief Minister and these ministers form the cabinet of ministers of the state. The Chief Minister and cabinet can function as long as they have a majority in the Legislative Assembly. They have to resign if they lose their majority.

EXERCISES

Answer the following questions:

1. Look at map 2.1 and write the name and serial number of your constituency of the Legislative Assembly?
2. Imagine you are contesting an election to the Legislative Assembly. How would you conduct your election campaigning?
3. Why is a state divided into separate constituencies for elections to the Legislative Assembly?
4. How many seats does a party need to get a majority in the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh?
5. What is the main responsibility of an elected representative of the Legislative Assembly?
6. If you are elected as a member of legislative assembly (MLA), What would you do for your area ?