

Introduction to our Constitution

EXERCISE [PAGE 67]

Exercise | Q 1.1 | Page 67

Provisions of the Constitution

Solution:

1. Constitution refers to a book that comprises of all the provisions regarding the administration of a country, mentioned together in a systematic way.
2. The rules and provisions in the Constitution are the fundamental laws of the country.
3. The provisions in the Constitution include a wide range of things viz. citizenship, the rights of citizens, the relationship between citizens and the State, subjects of the laws to be made by the governments, elections, restrictions on government, jurisdiction of the State, etc.
4. While making laws, the government is bound to follow these provisions, or else the Judiciary can declare those laws null and void or unconstitutional.
5. Each country creates such provisions which are not only suited to its needs and objectives but also match its distinct nature.
6. Governing a country with the help of rules or provisions has multiple benefits. e.g. It safeguards people's rights & freedoms and fixes their duties & responsibilities, prevents misuse of power, strengthens democracy, and maintains peace.

Exercise | Q 1.2 | Page 67

Constitution Day

Solution:

1. The day when the constitution was enacted and adopted by the constituent assembly is known as 'Constitution day'.
2. The process of the making of the Indian Constitution had started in 1946. It took two years, 11 months, and 17 days to complete the writing of the Constitution.
3. The Indian constitution was enacted and adopted on 26th November 1949 and hence, 26th November is observed as the Constitution Day of India.

Exercise | Q 2.1 | Page 67

Discuss.

A Constituent Assembly was established.

Solution:

1. The leaders of the freedom movement wanted Independent India to be governed by laws made by Indians themselves, and not by the British.
2. It was decided that the Constitution of Independent India would be prepared and a Committee, known as the Constituent Assembly was established for this purpose.

3. The process of the making of the Indian Constitution started in 1946.
4. The representatives of the provinces and the princely states were included in this committee. There were a total of 299 members in the Constituent Assembly and Dr. Rajendra Prasad as its President.

In this way, a constituent assembly was established.

Exercise | Q 2.2 | Page 67

Discuss.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is called the 'Architect of the Indian Constitution'.

Solution:

1. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a pioneer in drafting the Indian Constitution.
2. He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and had done a detailed study of the Constitutions of different countries of the world.
3. He contemplated day and night to draft our Constitution.
4. When the draft was ready, he presented the draft in the constituent Assembly, answered the various questions raised on it, made the required changes in the draft, and made every provision flawless.

Due to this enormous contribution towards the making of the Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is called the 'Architect of the Indian Constitution.'

Exercise | Q 2.3 | Page 67

Discuss.

What is included in the administration of a country?

Solution:

1. The process followed by the government for taking decisions related to a vast domain of different issues, right from space research to public cleanliness, in order to bring about desirable changes in the society, is called as administration or governance.
2. To achieve this goal, the government has to make and implement laws.

The government makes laws relating to several subjects, as follows:

- a. Defending the boundaries
- b. Protecting the people from external aggression

- c. Eradication of poverty
- d. Creating employment
- e. Education and health services
- f. Encouragement to commerce and industries
- g. Protection of the weaker sections
- h. Making policies for the progress of women, children, and the tribal people.

Exercise | Q 3.1 | Page 67

Choose the right option.

The Constitution of this country is primarily unwritten.

1. America
2. India
3. England
4. None of the above

Solution: England

Exercise | Q 3.2 | Page 67

Choose the right option.

Who was the President of the Constituent Assembly?

1. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar
2. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
3. Durgabai Deshmukh
4. B. N. Rau

Solution: Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Exercise | Q 3.3 | Page 67

Choose the right option.

Who among these was not a member of the Constituent Assembly?

1. Mahatma Gandhi
2. Maulana Azad
3. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
4. Hansaben Mehta

Solution: Mahatma Gandhi

Exercise | Q 3.4 | Page 67

Choose the right option.

Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee?

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
3. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar
4. J. B. Kripalani

Solution: Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar

Exercise | Q 4.1 | Page 67

On what subjects does the Government have to make laws?

Solution:

1. Government makes laws relating to various subjects in order to bring about desirable changes in the society.

The subjects on which the Government makes laws are mentioned as follows:

- a. Defending the boundaries
- b. Protecting people from external aggression
- c. Eradication of poverty
- d. Creating employment
- e. Education and health services
- f. Encouragement to commerce and industries
- g. Protection of the weaker sections
- h. Making policies for the progress of women, children, and the tribal people.

Exercise | Q 4.2 | Page 67

Why do we celebrate 26th January as Republic Day?

Solution:

1. The Constituent Assembly enacted the Constitution and adopted it on 26th November 1949.
2. However, the country began to be actually governed according to the provisions of the Constitution only from 26th January 1950. Thus, the Indian Republic came into existence from this particular day.

Therefore, we celebrate 26th January as Republic Day.

Exercise | Q 4.3 | Page 67

What are the advantages of running a country as per the provisions of the Constitution?

Solution:

Constitution refers to a book that comprises of all the provisions regarding the administration of a country, mentioned together in a systematic way.

Running a country as per the provisions of the Constitution has several advantages mentioned as follows:

1. **The misuse of the power and authority is reduced:**

When a Government functions within a set of rules, the possibility of the misuse of the given power and authority reduces.

2. **People's rights and freedoms are safeguarded:**

Government cannot take away the rights and freedoms of the citizens mentioned in the constitution. As a result, people's rights and freedoms are safeguarded.

3. **Establishes the rule of law:**

Running a country as per the provisions of the Constitution, there is no scope for high-handed administration thus, establishing the rule of law.

5. **Strengthens Democracy:**

When a country is run as per the Constitution, the faith of common people in the government increases. This brings about keen participation in the activities of the government from their side. Such increased participation of the people strengthens the democracy.

6. **Creates an atmosphere conducive for world peace, security, and preservation of human rights:**

The nation is bound to act according to the political ideals as directed by the Constitution. This creates an atmosphere conducive to attain world peace & security and preservation of human rights.

7. **Makes the citizens responsible:**

As the constitution includes the list of citizens' duties, it also entrusts the citizens with their responsibilities.