

UNIT-III

Democratic Politics II

CHAPTER

1

POWER SHARING

Syllabus

- *Why and how is power shared in democracies?*
- *How does democracy accommodate different social groups?*



TOPIC-1

Belgium and Sri Lanka & Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Quick Review

- Belgium is a small European country. Brussels is the capital of this country.
- The ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex.
- In Belgium people speak mainly three languages—Dutch (59 percent), French (40 percent) and German (1 percent).
- In Brussels, the Dutch-speaking people are in a minority which is the opposite of the rest of the country, where they are in a majority.
- Sri Lanka is an island country. It has a diverse population.
- In Sri Lanka, 74 percent people speak Sinhala and 18 percent people speak Tamil.
- In Sri Lanka, there are four religions:
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Hinduism
 - Christianity
- In 1956, an act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language of Sri Lanka, thus disregarding Tamil.
- The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority and thus, the democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.
- It followed majoritarianism.
- By 1980s several political organizations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- The distrust between the two communities turned into wide spread conflict which resulted into a Civil War.

TOPIC - 1

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TOPIC - 2

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Know the Terms

- **Democracy** : A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.
- **Majoritarianism** : Under majoritarianism, majority community rules the country in its own way by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.
- **Legislature** : A kind of deliberative assembly with the power to pass, amend and repeal laws.

- **Federal Government** : A general government for the entire country is usually called federal government.
- **Community Government** : Community government is an elected body by the people belonging to one language, one culture or any other property no matter where they live.
- **Civil War** : A civil war is a war which is fought between different groups of people who live in the same country.
- **Ethnic** : A social division based on shared culture.
- **Indian Tamils** : The Tamilians whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial rule and settled in Sri Lanka are called 'Indian Tamils'.
- **Sri Lankan Tamils** : Tamil natives of Sri Lanka are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils',

Know the Links

- http://www.ndtv.com/topic/tamil_eelam
- www.slideshare.net/.../power-sharing-in-belgium-sri-lanka



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- A Q. 1. Which language was recognised as the only official language of Sri Lanka in 1956?**
OR
Which language is spoken by majority of Sri Lankans?
[Board Term-I, (Set-6AP67LO, C5JVWED) 2015]
Ans. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language. 1
- A Q. 2. How and when was Sinhala recognized as the official language of Sri Lanka?**
[Board Term-I, Set (CB4QHT1, 6HTQGTF) 2016-17]
Ans. Sinhala was recognized as the official language of Sri Lanka by passing an Act in 1956.
(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016) 1
- A Q. 3. What is the state religion of Sri Lanka?**
[Board Term-I, KVS-2014]
Ans. Buddhism 1
- A Q. 4. Who formed the majority in terms of population in Sri Lanka?**
[Board Term-I, NCT-2014]
Ans. Sinhala community. 1
- U Q. 5. Which factor is responsible for increasing the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan, Tamils?** [Board Term-I, Set (DDE) 2015]
Ans. Majoritarianism. 1
- A Q. 6. What measure was adopted by the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka to establish Sinhala supremacy?**
[Board Term-I, Set (X30T4XE) 2014]
Ans. Majoritarian measure. 1
- A Q. 7. In which country the principle of majoritarianism led to a Civil War?**
Ans. Sri Lanka. 1
- U Q. 8. 'Sri Lankan Tamil' refers to which social group?**
Ans. Tamil native of the country. 1
- U Q. 9. What is vertical division of powers?**
Ans. Division of powers between higher and lower levels of government is called vertical division. 1
- A Q. 10. Which city is the capital of Belgium?**
Ans. Brussels. 1
- A Q. 11. Majority of the people in Belgium speak which language?**
Ans. Dutch. 1
- U Q. 12. Which language is not spoken by most of the people in Belgium?**
Ans. German. 1
- A Q. 13. Which ethnic group is related to Belgium?**
Ans. Dutch, French and Germans. 1
- U Q. 14. Who elects the community government in Belgium?**
Ans. People belonging to one language community only. 1
- A Q. 15. Name countries with which Belgium have borders?**
Ans. Belgium is a small country in Europe, bordered by the Netherlands, France and Germany. 1
- A Q. 16. Which composition best explains the complex ethnic composition of Belgium?**
Ans. It has 59% Dutch speaking, 40% French speaking and 1% German speaking people. 1
- A Q. 17. In which countries the participation of women in public life is very high?**
Ans. Scandinavian countries. 1
- U Q. 18. How many times was the Belgium Constitution amended between 1970 and 1993?**
Ans. Four times. 1
- A Q. 19. Which is the capital city of Belgium?**
Ans. Brussels. 1
- A Q. 20. Name one country with which Belgium does not have borders?**
Ans. Sweden. 1
- A Q. 21. Which group of countries surrounds Belgium?**
Ans. Germany, France, The Netherlands & Luxembourg. 1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

A Q. 1. How is the ethnic composition of Belgium very complex? Explain.

[Board Term I, Set (6HTQGTF) 2016-17]

- Ans.** (i) Of the country's total population, 59 percent live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language.
 (ii) Another 40 percent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French.
 (iii) Remaining one percent of the Belgians speak German.
 (iv) In the capital city Brussels, 80 percent people speak French while 20 percent are Dutch speaking.

(Any three)

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016) 1×3=3

A Q. 2. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan government.

[Board Term-I, Set, (NLTM8TU) 2016-17]

Ans. Consequences of majoritarian policies adopted by Sri Lankan Government.

- (i) Tamils felt the government was not sensitive about Tamil language and culture.
 (ii) Tamils felt discriminated against in jobs and education.
 (iii) Tamils felt the government was practicing religious discrimination.
 (iv) Relations between Tamils and Sinhalese became strained.

(Any three)

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016) 1×3=3

U Q. 3. Describe the power sharing arrangement made by Belgium? [Board Term-I, NCT-2014]

OR

A Explain any three elements of the Belgium model of power sharing.

[Board Term-I, KVS-2014]

Ans. The main element of the Belgium model of power-sharing includes :

- (i) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
 (ii) Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments of the two regions of the country. The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.
 (iii) Brussels had a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government. 1×3=3

U Q. 4. Describe any three majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan Government to establish Sinhala supremacy.

[Board Term-I, Set (H3), 2013 (37) 2012]

OR

U Describe any three provisions of the Act which was passed in Sri Lanka in 1956 to establish Sinhala supremacy. [Board Term-I, Set (40) 2012]

OR

U Why did the Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated in spite of their long stay in Sri Lanka?

[Board Term-I, Set (55) 2012]

OR

U Explain three measures taken by Sri Lanka, according to an Act passed in 1956.

[Board Term-I, (33) 2012]

OR

A Which three provisions of the Act passed in Sri Lanka in 1956 established Sinhala supremacy?

[Board Term-I, Set (56) 2012]

OR

U What were the reasons for the alienation of Sri Lankan Tamils? What was the effect of this on the country?

[Board Term-I, Set (14,3745), 2011 Set (AZ) 2010]

OR

U Why Sri Lankan Tamils felt alienated?

[Board Term-I, Set (34, 40) 2011]

Ans. Sri Lankan Tamils felt alienated because :

- (i) Government adopted majoritarian measure to establish Sinhala Supremacy. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language thus disregarding Tamil.
 (ii) The governments followed preferential politics that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
 (iii) A new Constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
 (iv) Sri Lankan Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture.
 (v) As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained overtime and it soon turned into a Civil War.

(Any three) 1×3=3

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2013)

U Q. 5. Compare the different ways in which the Belgians and the Sri Lankans have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity.

[Board Term-I, Set (52), 2012

(12, 13, 23, 32, 33) 2011]

Ans. The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional and cultural diversities.

- (i) They amended their Constitution four times so as to work out an innovative arrangement that would enable everyone to live together in peace and harmony, i.e., there was sharing of power between the Dutch and the French both in the Central Government, State Government and Community Government. They followed a policy of accommodation.
- (ii) This helped to avoid civic strife and division of the country on linguistic lines.
- (iii) On the other hand, the Sinhalese who were in majority in Sri Lanka as compared to the Tamils followed a policy of majoritarianism and adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy by passing an Act of 1956. These measures alienated the Tamils leading to civic strife between the two communities.

1×3=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)

Q. 6. Explain any three consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan Government. [Board Term-I, Set (48) 2012]

Ans. Consequences of majoritarian policies adopted by Sri Lankan Government were :

- (i) Tamils felt the government was not sensitive about Tamil language and culture because Sinhala was declared the official language.
- (ii) Tamils felt discriminated against securing jobs and education which were given preferentially to the Sinhala speakers.
- (iii) Tamils felt the government was practising religious discrimination because the State fostered Buddhism. Relations between Tamils and Sinhalese became strained.

1×3=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)

Q. 7. Mention any three demands of Sri Lankan Tamils? [Board Term-I, Set (63) 2012]
OR

Which three demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils accepted and met with, can settle the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka for good? Explain. [Board Term-I, Set (35) 2012]

Ans. Demands of the Tamils :

- (i) Recognition of Tamil as an official language.
- (ii) Equal opportunities for Tamils in government jobs and educational institutions.
- (iii) Provincial autonomy for Tamil dominated provinces.

1×3=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)



Long Answer Type Question

(5 marks)

Q. 1. How majoritarianism has increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils? Explain.

[Board Term-I, (WQ7FXWC), (R9UJGYG) 2014]

Ans. Sri Lanka became independent in 1948. It immediately adopted measures to impose Sinhala supremacy.

- (i) The Tamils felt alienated. No respect or recognition was given to their language, culture and religion.
- (ii) They began a struggle for equality in jobs, entry to the university, recognition of their language and culture.

- (iii) Slowly the conflict changed into a demand for regional autonomy.
- (iv) The Tamilians were grouped together in the North and East of Sri Lanka.
- (v) Their demands were ignored, the conflict became more severe and by the 1980s, the Tamilian demand had changed.
- (vi) They wanted Tamil Eelam in the North and East. A civil war ensued, which killed thousands on both sides.
- (vii) The flourishing economy of Sri Lanka has disappeared and the conflict has given a blow to social, cultural and economic life of Sri Lanka.

(Any five) 1 × 5 = 5



TOPIC-2

Accommodation in Belgium and Forms of Power Sharing

Quick Review

- A strategy wherein all the major segments of the society are provided with a permanent share of power in the governance of the country is known as power sharing.
- Political equality implies that all citizens should have the same political rights and should have equal access to all offices of authority.
- Government is the institution, through which the will of the State is created, expressed and implemented.
- The three main organs of the Government are: (i) Legislature, (ii) Executive and (iii) Judiciary.

- The broad divisions of reasons for power sharing are prudential reason and moral reason.
- Ethnicity is a population of human beings whose members identify with each other on the basis of common cultural, behavioral, linguistic and religious traits.
- A government in which different social groups are given the power to handle the affairs related to their communities is known as Community Government.
- The Belgian leaders worked out to make an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country, which is very innovative.
- The Constitution of Belgium prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government.
- The State Governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.
- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government called the 'Community Government'.
- **Power sharing is desirable because :**
 - It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
 - It is the very spirit of democracy.
- **In modern democracies, power sharing arrangements can take many forms :**
 - Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
 - Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level.
 - Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups.
 - Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.

Know the Terms

- **Power Sharing :** The division of power between different stages of government, different organs or different communities in a country in order to ensure smooth running of the government and to check that all powers are not concentrated within one hand.
- **Prudential :** Based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses. Prudential decisions are usually contrasted with those decisions based purely on moral considerations.
- **Check and Balances :** A system, in which each organ of the government checks the others, which results in a balance of power among various institutions.
- **Coalition Government :** A government formed by the union of two or more political parties.
- **Pressure Groups :** Pressure groups are those organizations that attempt to influence the policies of the government to safeguard their own interests.
- **Legitimate Government :** A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.
- **Horizontal Distribution of Power :** Power is shared among different organs of government such as legislative, executive and judiciary.
- **Vertical Division of Power :** Distribution of power between higher and lower levels of government such as between central and state governments.

Know the Link

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Belgium



Very Short Answer Type Questions

(1 mark each)

- Q. 1. What does the system of checks and balances' ensure in power sharing?

[Board Term I, Set (OEQL2HT) 2016-17]

Ans. That none of the organs of the government can exercise unlimited power.

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016) 1

- Q. 2. Which system of power sharing is called, 'Checks and Balances'?

Ans. Horizontal form of power sharing in which no one is superior to the other. The power is divided equally among executive, legislature and judiciary. They work independently and have the rights to check each other's power. 1

- Q. 3. Mention any one characteristics of power sharing.

[Board Term I, Set (NLTM8TU) 2016-17]

Ans. It gives the people right to be consulted or any other characteristics.

(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016) 1

Q. 4. Which type of powers does the Community Government of Belgium enjoy?

[Board Term-I, (Set-E) DDE-2015]

Ans. This government has the power regarding culture, education and language related issues. 1

Q. 5. What is the prudential reason behind power sharing? [Board Term-I, Set (R9UJGYG), (WQ7FXWC) 2014]

OR

Q. Why power sharing is good for democracies?

Ans. It reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups. 1



Short Answer Type Questions

(3 marks each)

Q. 1. What is power sharing? Why power sharing is important in a democracy?

[Board Term-I, NCT-2014]

Ans. (i) When the power does not rest with any one organ of the state rather it is shared among legislature, executive and judiciary it is called power sharing.

(ii) Power sharing is important in a democracy because :

- It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- It is the very spirit of democracy.
- It is a good way to ensure the stability of the political order. (Any two) 1+2=3

Q. 2. "Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united." Do you agree with this statement and why?

[Board Term-I, Set 13 (H3), (CB4QHT1), 2016-17]

OR

Q. "Power-sharing is the very spirit of democracy". Justify this statement with three suitable points.

[Board Term-I, Set (39) 2012]

OR

Q. How far do you agree with the statement that power sharing is keeping with the "Spirit" of democracy? [Board Term-I, Set (45) 2012]

Ans. Power sharing keeps up with the 'Spirit' of Democracy as :

- Power sharing ensures that all people have stake in government.
- Power sharing ensures maximum participation and upholds the concept of people's rule. It always brings better outcomes in democracy. It ensures the political stability in democracy.
- Power sharing accommodates diverse groups and helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

1×3=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016)

Q. 3. Give reasons why power sharing is desirable.

[Board Term-I, Set 6AP67LB; 2015 Set (A2) 2011]

OR

Q. Why power sharing is necessary in democracy? Explain. [Board Term-I, Set (16, 11) 2011]

OR

Q. Write one prudential and one moral reason for power sharing.

OR

Q. Why is power sharing desirable? Explain moral reasons in this regard. [Board Term-I, Set (64) 2012]

OR

Q. Why power sharing is desirable? Explain giving any three prudential reasons.

[Board Term-I, Set (34) 2012]

Ans. Power sharing is desirable in democracy because :

(i) Prudential reasons :

- It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability.
- It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- Imposing the will of majority, community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.

(ii) Moral reasons :

- Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effect.
- People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- A legitimate government is one where citizens through participation, acquire a stake in the system. 1½+1½=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015, 2012)

Q. 4. How can power be shared among governments at different levels? Explain.

[Board Term-I, DDE-2014]

OR

Q. Explain the vertical division of power giving example from India.

[Board Term-I, Set (36) 2012]

Ans. Vertical division of power : Vertical division of power means sharing of power among governments at different levels.

In India, there are three levels of the government:

- For the entire country :** Central Government/ Union Government.

- (ii) At the provincial level : State Governments.
 (iii) At the local level (*i.e.*, rural and urban) : Local self governments like panchayats and municipal councils.

1×3=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)

Q. 5. Describe horizontal and vertical power sharing in modern democracies.

OR

Differentiate between horizontal and vertical division of powers.

[Board Term-I, Set (18, 36) 2011]

OR

What is horizontal distribution of power? Mention its two advantages.

[Board Term I, Set (82), (OEQL2HT) 2016-17, 2012]

OR

Why is horizontal distribution of power often referred to as a system of 'checks and balances'? Explain.

[Board Term-I, Set (67, 70) 2012]

Ans.

S. No.	Horizontal division of power	Vertical division of power
(i)	Horizontal division of power is such a power sharing arrangement in which power is shared among different organs of government, such as legislature, executive and judiciary	In vertical division of powers, power can be shared among governments at different levels, like union, state and local levels of government, <i>i.e.</i> , it involves higher and lower levels of the government.
(ii)	In horizontal division of power, different organs of government exercise different powers. This is a concept of separation of powers.	In vertical division of powers, constitution clearly lays down the power of different levels of the government.
(iii)	Horizontal distribution specifies the concept of checks and balances in order to check the exercise of unlimited powers of the organs.	There is no concept of checks and balances, because powers are clearly given by the constitution from the higher level to the lower level.

Advantages of horizontal distribution of power :

- It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
- It ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other.

Q. 6. In modern democracies, power is often shared among different organs of the government. Explain.

[Board Term-I, Set (27, 35, 42) 2011]

OR

Explain how power is shared among different organs of the government.

Ans. Power is shared between different organs of the government such as Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

This system of power sharing is referred to as a system of 'checks and balances' because :

- All three organs are placed at the same level of power.
- The power distribution ensures that no organ enjoys unlimited powers.
- Each organ exercises a check on the others. Thus there is a balance of power.

OR

Power is shared among different organs of government *i.e.*, Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

- Legislature** : The legislature is concerned with passing the laws, controlling the finances of the state and delivering on matter of public importance.
- Executive** : The executive machinery implements the policies of the government and executes the rules made by the legislature bodies.
- Judiciary** : The judiciary is concerned with the interpretation of the laws and has the power to punish those who commit crimes or break the laws. The judiciary can also check the functioning of the executives.

1+2=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2011)

Q. 7. "The outcome of politics of social divisions depends on how the political leaders raise the demands of any community". Explain the statement.

Ans. (i) It is easy to accommodate demands that are within the constitutional framework and are not at the cost of another community.

(ii) The demand for only the Sinhala community in Sri Lanka was at the cost of interest and identity of Tamil community.

(iii) In Yugoslavia, the leaders of the different ethnic communities presented their demands in such a way that these could not be accommodated within a single country.

1×3=3

Q. 8. "Both Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies, but they follow different systems of power sharing". Support the statement by giving three points of difference.

[Board Term-I, (69) 2012]

Ans. Difference in power sharing of Belgium and Sri Lanka :

- In Belgium, the government does not follow preferential policies in matters of jobs and education. In Sri Lanka, the government follows preferential policies in matters of government, jobs and education.

(ii) In Belgium, there is a special government called 'Community Government' to look after the cultural, educational and language related issues. In Sri Lanka, the major political parties are not sensitive to the language and culture of the Tamils.

(iii) In Belgium, there is no discrimination between different religions. In Sri Lanka, Buddhism is the official religion.

1×3=3 (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2012)



Long Answer Type Question

(5 marks)

Q. 1. Explain how Belgium was able to solve its ethnic problem? [NCERT; OD I, II, III 2010]

OR

U Explain the power sharing arrangement in Belgium. [Board Term-I, Set (17) 2011]

OR

U State the main elements of the power sharing model evolved in Belgium.

[Board Term-I, Set (20, 27, 40) 2011]

Ans. The main elements of the power-sharing model evolved in Belgium were :

- (i) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the Central Government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- (ii) Many powers of the Central Government have been given to State Governments of the two

regions of the country. The State Governments are not subordinated to the Central Government.

(iii) Brussels had a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French-speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.

(iv) Apart from the central and the state government, there is a third kind of government called the Community Government.

(v) This community government is elected by people belonging to one language community—Dutch, French and German speaking. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues

1 × 5 = 5

□□