

Social Science

(Social and Political Life)(Chapter – 3) (How the State Government Works)
(Class – 7)

Exercises

Question 1:

Use the terms 'constituency' and 'represent' to explain who an MLA is and how is the person elected?

Answer 1:

The members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) are directly elected by the people. They then become members of the legislative assembly and also form the government.

Every State in our country has a Legislative Assembly. Each State is divided into different constituencies (areas). From each constituency, the people elect one representative who then becomes a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). The MLA represents the constituency in the Legislative Assembly of the State.

Question 2:

How did some MLAs become Ministers? Explain.

Answer 2:

- After the elections, a political party whose MLAs have won more than half the number of constituencies in a state became the ruling party.
- The MLAs belonging to the ruling party will elect their leader who will become the chief minister.
- The chief minister then selects other people as ministers.
- The Governor of the state then appoints the chief minister and other ministers.

Question 3:

Why should decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers be debated in the Legislative Assembly?

Answer 3:

The Chief Minister and other ministers take decisions and run the government. Whatever decisions being taken by them have to approve by the members of the legislative assembly. In a democracy, these members can ask questions, debate an important issue, decide where money should be spent etc. They have the main authority.

Thus, decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers should be debated in the Legislative Assembly for the benefit of the entire people.

Question 4:

What was the problem in Patalpuram? What discussion/action was taken by the following? Fill in the table.

Public meeting

Legislative Assembly

Press conference

Chief Minister

Answer 4:

Public meeting	Affected people organised a meeting in which they reused their voice against the government. They had complains that the government failed to check diarrhea. They demanded that the authorities must take immediate actions to bring the public health situation under control. They also made demands for safe drinking water.
Legislative Assembly	It discussed the problems of Patalpuram with the help of some of the MLAs. These MLAs addressed the Minister of Health and wanted to know what the government was doing to bring the outbreak of diarrhea under control. They appealed to the Health Minister to make available clean drinking water sanitation of the locality for the sake of those who lived in that area.
Press conference	Different news reporters also raised the burning issue of deaths due to diarrhea in Patalpuram. They also highlighted the various problems of the people of that area due to the acute crisis of water. The Health Minister organised a press conference in which he announced that his Government had directed all the Collectors and the Chief Medical Officers to take immediate action to bring the situation under control.
Chief Minister	The chief minister visited Patalpuram. He visited the families who had lost their relatives. He also visited people in the hospitals. He announced a compensation for these families. He requested the Minister for Public Works to take care of the needs of proper water supply in the region.

Question 5:

What is the difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments?

Answer 5:

MLAs take part in different debate or discussion on various issues. They ask questions to different ministers of related departments. Sometimes they raise issues in the Assembly and request the government to take measures as soon as possible.

The government departments take action and direct the officials to look into the matter of various issues and do the needful. They try to satisfy the MLAs who ask questions to them by giving proper answers. They assure the Assembly members that urgent steps will be taken to control the situation.