

## Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. Define manual scavenging.**

**Ans.** Manual scavenging refers to the practice of removing human and animal waste/excreta using brooms, tin plates and baskets from dry latrines and carrying it on the head to disposal grounds some distance away.

**Q. 2. To protect the manual scavengers from serious health hazards what did the government do?**

**Ans.** In 1993, the government passed the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act. This law prohibits the employment of manual scavengers as well as the construction of dry latrines.

**Q. 3. How do the government and the Constitution promote social justice? Give an example.**

**Ans. (i)** Both Central and State governments create specific schemes in tribal areas or in areas that have a high Dalit population.

**(ii)** For example, the government provides for free or subsidised hostels for students of Dalit and Adivasi communities so that they can avail of education facilities that are not available in their localities.

**Q. 4. What is reservation policy?**

**Ans. (i)** Reservation policy is very significant and highly contentious.

**(ii)** The laws which reserve seats in education and government employment for Dalits and Adivasis are based on an important argument that in a society like ours, where for centuries various sections of the population have been denied opportunities to learn and to work in order to develop new skills or vocations, a democratic government needs to step in and assist these sections.