

# Power Sharing

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## Check Point 01

### Q. 1. Which minority community is relatively rich and powerful in Belgium?

**Answer:** Belgium, a small country in Europe with a population over one crore has a very complex ethnicity. About 59% of its population speaks Dutch, and 40% speaks French, and 1% speaks German.

French community though in the minority yet is rich and powerful in Germany.

### Q. 2. Name two sub-group of Tamils residing in Sri Lanka.

**Answer:** Sri Lanka is an island nation, south of India. It got independence in 1948. It has a diverse population like most of the South Asian nations.

The population in the majority is Sinhala speakers, with about 74% and rest are Tamil Speakers.

#### **The Tamil speaking people have got two subgroups:**

- a. Sri Lankan Tamils: The natives of Sri Lanka.
- b. Indian Tamils: Their forefathers came to Sri Lanka as planters.

### Q. 3. In which region does the Dutch constitute as a majority and minority?

**Answer:** Belgium a nation in Europe with complex ethnicity has two community in majority one is a Dutch-speaking community with over 59% population, and they lives in Flemish region, and another 40 % population speaks French and lives in Wallonia region, and the rest 1 % speaks German.

The capital of Belgium, Brussels, the community in the majority here is French with 80% population while rest is Dutch.

### Q. 4. What type of governments prevails in Belgium?

**Answer:** Belgium has complex ethnicity because two communities German and Dutch-speaking respectively form the majority of the population.

- According to its Constitution, the Dutch and the French-speaking minister should be an equal number in the central government. Hence no single community can make the decision unilaterally.
- Some of the powers of the central government are transferred to the State government. Hence the state government is not the subordinate of the central government.

- Brussels, the capital of Belgium, has its government where both the Dutch and French community have equal representation.
- There is a community government, which is elected by anyone community among Dutch, French, and German. They look after cultural, educational and language related issues.

## **Check Point 02**

### **Q. 1. What are federal governments?**

**Answer:** The country where powers are shared by the governments at different levels, i.e. provincial or regional level, is called Federal government.

Example: India has a federal form of government. It has two governments, i.e. one at the center and another at subsequent units, i.e. States called as Central and State government respectively.

### **Q. 2. What is a legitimate government?**

**Answer:** A legitimate Government is one that is accepted by all the citizens, meaning a law/authority has widespread acceptance.

It is a widespread acceptance of the governing authority by the public, and the governing regime has political power through consent and mutual understanding.

A legitimate government establishes stability, as it provides reasons for the regime to exist.

The election, which is significant for democracy is also an essential process of legitimization.

### **Q. 3. What is the source of political power in a democracy?**

**Answer:** A democracy is where people elect their representative or leader. The sources of political power in a Democracy are:

**a. People:** The citizens are the ultimate power, as the collective votes of the people decide the ruling authority of the nation. A political party or leader comes into power only when he/she gets elected by the majority of the people.

**b. The political parties:** It is an organized group with a specific agenda. There are several parties, and each has political competition among them to attain power. Such competitions are important as it makes sure that power does not remain in just one hand.

**c. Pressure groups:** It is a group of people who defend a common agenda, these groups try to bring change in the policies by exerting pressure on the government. There are many pressure groups in India some being RSS, Bajrang Dal, Narmada Bachao Andolan, etc.

#### **Q. 4. How does the power-sharing occur in the community governments?**

**Answer:** Apart from Power Sharing between Centre and State, there is also a Power Sharing in the Community governments. These Community could be any, based on linguistic or religious groups.

In our Parliament seats are reserved for women and socially backward community, in the constituencies, to give these community space to represent themselves. This type of arrangement is made to give the minority communities a fair share in the power.

**Example:** In Belgium, There is a communist government, which is elected by any one community among Dutch, French, and German. They look after cultural, educational and language related issues.

### **Self Assessment**

#### **Q. 1. What is a civil war?**

**Answer:** A Civil war is a war that is fought between the different groups of the same region or nation, sometimes situation get so intense that takes the form of actual war.

**Example:** When Sri Lanka recognized Sinhala as the only official language it disregarded Tamils. They felt that they were denied equality. As a result, the relationship between the Sinhala and the Tamils strained and the Sri Lankan Tamils launched movements against the government. This distrust took the shape of Civil war, thousands of people were killed.

#### **Q. 2. Which type of distribution of power sharing is called a system of check and balances?**

**Answer:** In a democracy, though power is assigned to the ministers yet they are accountable to the Parliament. Their actions are judged or checked at every instance.

**Example:** In our country, though power is divided amongst Executive, Legislature and Judiciary yet they are interlinked. A law made by the legislature can be checked by the Judiciary if it goes against the principle of the Constitution. This maintains a balance in the country. This arrangement is called checks and balances.

#### **Q. 3. What is a reserved constituency?**

**Answer:** In our Parliament seats are reserved for women and socially backward community, in the constituencies, to give these community space to represent themselves. This type of arrangement is made to give the minority communities a fair share in the power. This is called a reserved constituency.

#### **Q. 4. Who are the Indian Tamil in Sri Lanka?**

**Answer:** Sri Lanka is an island nation, south of India. It got independence in 1948. It has a diverse population like most of the South Asian nations.

The Tamil speaking people have got two subgroups one is Sri Lankan Tamils who are the natives of Sri Lanka, and another is Indian Tamils whose forefathers came to Sri Lanka as planters during the colonial period.

**Q. 5. What is the percentage of German speaking people in Belgium?**

**Answer:** Belgium is a nation in Europe with complex ethnicity. It has two community in majority, one is a Dutch-speaking community with over 59% population, and they live in Flemish region, and another 40 % population speaks French and lives in Wallonia region, and the rest 1 % speaks German.

**Q. 6. What is the state religion of Sri Lanka?**

**Answer:** In 1948 when Sri Lanka got independence, Sinhala was established as a supreme religion. Later in 1956 Sinhala was declared an official language.

Later when the new constitution was framed, it stipulated Buddhism as a supreme community. At present, Theravada Buddhism is a dominant religion of Sri Lanka with 70% population. Most of the Buddhists speak Sinhala.

**Q. 7. What is the percentage of the Christian population in Sri Lanka?**

**Answer:** Sri Lanka is an island nation, south of India. It has a diverse population like most of the South Asian nations. The population in the majority is Sinhala speakers, with about 74% and rest are Tamil Speakers. The 7% of the population are Christians who speak both Tamil and Sinhala.

**Q. 8. What was LTTE?**

**Answer:** LTTE is Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, it was a militant organization of Sri Lanka. The main aim of the organization was the formation of the independent state of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka. The militant created insurgency situation in the country which later took the form of Sri Lankan Civil wars but eventually, it got defeated.

**Q. 9. Who was responsible for the formation of LTTE in Sri Lanka?**

**Answer:** LTTE, i.e. is Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, was established in 1976 by Velupillai Prabhakaran. The main aim of the organization was the formation of the independent state of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka. It was a militant organization that got itself engaged in illegal activities. The assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was planned by LTTE. In 2009 LTTE came to an end and eventually got defeated.

**Q. 10. What is the percentage of Indian Tamil in the overall Sri Lankan population?**

**Answer:** The Tamil speaking people have got two subgroups one is Sri Lankan Tamils who are the natives of Sri Lanka, and another is Indian Tamils whose forefathers came to Sri Lanka as planters during the colonial period.

There are 18% Tamil Speakers, among them, 13% are Sri Lankan Tamils and rest 5% are Indian Tamils.

**Q. 11. What is the meaning of Tamil Eelam?**

**Answer:** Eelam means State, so Tamil Eelam means Tamil State. The Sri Lankan Tamils wanted recognition of Tamil as official Language, but the government denied their demands. They organized several parties and groups demanding the formation of the new state in northern Sri Lanka, as Tamil Eelam.

**Q. 12. What is the difference between prudential and moral reasons for power sharing?**

**Answer:** Power Sharing or distribution of power is desirable for a nation because arranging or distributing the powers among social or religious groups reduces the occurrence of conflict in the nation. By sharing power, a nation ensures that stability and political order is maintained. This is prudential as it states that by sharing power there is the possibility of better outcomes.

Power sharing is important also because, in a democracy the people have the right to be consulted about the governance, so this right is established by power sharing. This is a moral reason as it states the values of power sharing.

**Q. 13. What do you understand by the term power sharing? Explain.**

**Answer:** Power sharing is distribution or arrangement of powers between groups or states of a nation. Almost every nation has various ethnicity; there are various religious and linguistic groups. So by arranging or distributing the powers among these groups reduces the occurrence of conflict in the nation. By sharing power, a nation ensures that stability and political order is maintained.

**Q. 14. Is Flemish language used in Belgium as a separate language? Why?**

**Answer:** Flemish is a language that is related to Dutch dialect and is spoken in the northern part of Belgium. Yes, it is used as a separate language to reduce the conflict between the French and Dutch-speaking community.

Belgium has complex ethnicity because two communities, German and Dutch-speaking respectively form the majority of the population.

According to its Constitution, the Dutch and the French-speaking minister should be an equal number in the central government. Hence no single community can make the decision unilaterally.

**Q. 15. What values does power-sharing exhibit in a country?**

**Answer:** Power sharing is distribution or arrangement of powers between groups or states of a nation. Power sharing is the characteristic of good governance. Sharing of power helps in well-functioning of democracy.

In a democratic nation, power sharing is more significant, because in a democracy the people have the right to be consulted about the governance. This states the values of power sharing.

**Q. 16. What were the two main causes of resentment in Belgium in 1960? How was the conflict solved?**

**Answer:** Belgium a nation in Europe with complex ethnicity has two community in majority one is a Dutch-speaking community with over 59% population, and they lives in Flemish region, and another 40 % population speaks French and lives in Wallonia region, and the rest 1 % speaks German. The capital of Belgium is Brussels, the community in the majority here is French with 80% population while rest is Dutch

**The two main causes of resentment were:**

**(a)** The French community that was in minority were rich and powerful compared to the Dutch who were in majority because the Dutch got the benefits of education much later than the French.

**(b)** Although the Dutch were in the majority in the country, they were in the minority in capital, i.e. Brussels.

**The conflict was solved as follows:**

- According to its Constitution, the Dutch and the French-speaking minister should be an equal number in the central government. Hence no single community can make the decision unilaterally.
- Some of the powers of the central government are transferred to the State government. Hence the state government is not the subordinate of the central government.
- Brussels, the capital of Belgium, has its government where both the Dutch and French community have equal representation.

**Q. 17. Why is power sharing desirable? Give any three prudential reasons.**

**Answer: Power sharing is distribution or arrangement of powers between groups or states of a nation.**

**Power is important because:**

**a.** Almost every nation has various ethnicity; there are various religious and linguistic groups. So by arranging or distributing the powers among these groups reduces the occurrence of conflict in the nation. By sharing power, a nation ensures that stability and political order is maintained.

**b.** In a democratic nation, power sharing is more significant, because in a democracy the people have the right to be consulted about the governance.

**Example:** In our Parliament seats are reserved for women and socially backward community, in the constituencies, to give these community space to represent themselves. This type of arrangement is made to give the minority communities a fair share in the power.

Brussels, the capital of Belgium, has its government where both the Dutch and French community have equal representation.

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**Q. 18. Explain the significance of 'Democracy' in details.**

**Answer:** Democracy is a form of government where the rulers get elected by the people. A democratic form of government is run by the elected representatives of the common people. Hence, public opinion is the essence of democracy. Such a form of government ensures good opportunity for the overall growth and well-being of its citizens

**The significance of Democracy are:**

- a.** The citizen of the nation comes first. Any policy is made by keeping the interest of people in mind. The authority of a nation is chosen by the people; this makes the citizen basis of democracy.
- b.** In a democracy, a leader/authority or political party are accountable to the citizens for their action; this deters them from wrongdoings. As doing so would remove them from the authority. There is pressure upon the leaders to do good work to retain the position.
- c.** Public's voice is not suppressed. In a democracy, people have the right to agitate against the government if the laws/policies are not made in the welfare of the nation.
- d.** In a democracy, all the citizens are treated equally; there is no discrimination by caste, creed, race, sex.

**Q. 19. What impact would lack 'Power-sharing' have on the country?**

**Answer:** Power sharing is the characteristic of good governance. Sharing of power helps in well-functioning of democracy.

- a.** Lack of Power Sharing increases the chances of confliction and creates instability in the nation, as every community do not get treated equally, this establishes a feeling of resentment.

**b.** Lack of power-sharing reduces the efficiency of the government, as there are no checks and balances. The accountability of the authority gets reduced.

**c.** Lack of Power Sharing affects the right of people to get consulted by the authority.

**Example:** When Sri Lanka recognized Sinhala as the only official language it disregarded Tamils. They felt that they were denied equality. As a result, the relationship between the Sinhala and the Tamils strained and the Sri Lankan Tamils launched movements against the government. This distrust took the shape of Civil war, thousands of people were killed.

**Q. 20. What arrangements were worked out by the Belgium leaders to an accommodate regional difference and cultural diversities?**

**Answer:** Belgium has complex ethnicity because two communities German and Dutch-speaking respectively form the majority of the population.

- According to its Constitution, the Dutch and the French-speaking minister should be an equal number in the central government. Hence no single community can make the decision unilaterally.
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