

## Very Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. What do you mean by public facilities?**

**Ans.** Public facilities relate to our basic needs and the Indian Constitution recognises the right to water, health, education as being a part of Right to Life. Thus, one of the major roles of the government is to ensure adequate public facilities for everyone.

**Q. 2. Write a short note on Sulabh.**

**Ans.** Sulabh is a non-government organisation that has been working for three decades to address the problems of sanitation being faced by low-caste, low income people in India.

**Q. 3. Mention public facilities?**

**Ans.** Healthcare, sanitation, electricity, public transport, schools and colleges, etc. are known as public facilities.

**Q. 4. What is government's role?**

**Ans.** One of the most important functions of the government is to ensure that the public facilities are made available to everyone.

**Q. 5. How do private companies supplying water take advantage of public facilities?**

**Ans.** Private Companies supplying water through tankers or in sealed bottles provide public facilities but at a price that only some can afford. This facility is available to all but not at rate affordable by all.

## Short Answer Questions

### Q. 1. Define Right to Water.

**Ans. (i)** The Constitution of India recognises the right to water as being a part of the Right to Life under Article 21.

**(ii)** This means that it is the right of every person, whether rich or poor, to have sufficient amounts of water to fulfil his/her daily needs at a price that he/she can afford.

**(iii)** There should be universal access to water.

### Q. 2. Mention the condition of poor people and middle at the time of shortage of water.

**Ans. (i)** The burden of shortfalls in water supply falls mostly on the poor.

**(ii)** The middle class, when faced with water shortages, is able to cope through a variety of private means such as digging borewells, buying water from tankers and using bottled water for drinking.

### Q. 3. How water is taken away from farmers?

**Ans. (i)** Every month the water dealers pay farmers an advance for the rights to exploit water sources on their land.

**(ii)** This is water taken away not just from agriculture but also from the drinking water supplies of the villagers.

**(iii)** Ground water level has dropped drastically in all these towns and villages as a result.

## Long Answer Questions

**Q. 1. The government gets money for public facilities from the taxes collected from the people and the government is empowered to collect taxes and use them for such programmes.**

**Ans.** Major share of government revenue comes from customs, excise and service tax (42%) and corporate tax (41%). Personal income tax contributes 16% of government revenue.

**Q. 2. Why alternative is looked for in place of the government for the public facilities?**

**Ans. (i)** The scenario of shortage of public facilities available to the population of India has compelled people to look for private companies as alternatives to take over the tasks of providing amenities to common man.

**(ii)** The foremost reason being the performance. Private companies perform better.

**(iii)** Government can turn to the private sector as an alternative additional source of funding to meet the funding gap funds can aid to provide more facilities.

**(iv)** Private sectors' technology and innovation can help in providing better public services through improved operational efficiency.

**(v)** As private companies provide public facilities at a price, projects would be delivered by them in time.

## Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

**Q. 1. Describe how private companies perform?**

**Ans. (i)** Throughout the world, water supply is the responsibility of the government. There are very few instances of private water supply.

**(ii)** There are areas in the world where public water supply has achieved universal access.

**(iii)** In a few cases, where the responsibility for water supply was handed over to private companies, there was a steep rise in the price of water, making it unaffordable by many.

**(iv)** The water supply department in Mumbai, raises enough money through water charges to cover its expenses on supply of water.

**Q. 2. Examine the important characteristics of a public facility**

**Ans. (i)** Once it is provided, its benefits can be shared by many people.

**(ii)** For instance, a school in the village or city will enable many children to get educated.

**(iii)** The supply of electricity to an area can be useful for many people.

Farmers can run pump sets to irrigate their fields, people can open small workshops that run on electricity, students will find it easier to study and most people in the village will benefit in one way or the other.