

Very Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Who is a consumer?

Ans. A consumer is an individual who buys goods for personal use and not for resale.

Q. 2. Who are producers?

Ans. Producers are persons or organisations that produce goods for sale in the market.

Q. 3. Define the term investment?

Ans. Investment refers to the money spent to purchase new machinery or buildings or training so as to be able to increase/modernise production in the future.

Q. 4. What do you mean by workers' unions?

Ans. Workers' unions is an association of workers. Workers' union are common in factories and offices. The leaders of the Union bargain and negotiate with the employer on behalf of its members.

Q. 5. What is Minimum Wages Act?

Ans. Minimum wages Act specifies that wages should not be below a specified minimum limit.

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Explain the Right against Exploitation.

Ans. Right against Exploitation says that no one can be forced to work for low wages or under bondage.

No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mines or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Q. 2. Why do foreign companies come to India?

Ans. Foreign companies come to India for cheap labour. Wages that the companies pay to workers in USA are far higher than what they have to pay to workers in poorer countries like India. Thus, companies can save costs and earn higher profits.

Q. 3. How can safety laws be enforced by the government?

Ans. As the lawmaker and enforcer, the government is supposed to ensure that safety laws are implemented. It is the duty of the government to ensure that the Right to Life guaranteed under Article 21 of the constitution is not violated.

Q. 4. Who is responsible for setting up laws related to environment?

Ans. The government is responsible for setting up laws and procedures related to environment that can check pollution, clean rivers and introduce heavy fines for those who pollute.

Q. 5. What is the major role of the government?

Ans. The major role of the government is to control the activities of private companies by making, enforcing and upholding laws so as to prevent unfair practices and ensure social justice. Laws that are weak and poorly enforced can cause serious harm.

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. How does environment acts as a public facility?

Ans. (i) Recent research on environmental issues in India has highlighted the fact that the growing concern for the environment among the middle classes is often at the expense of the poor.

(ii) The awareness of the need for a clean environment is increasing, there is little concern for the safety of the workers themselves.

(iii) The challenge is to look for the solutions where everyone can be benefitted of clean environment.

(iv) One way, this can be done is to gradually move to cleaner technologies and processes in factories.

(v) The government has to encourage and support the factories.

(vi) To do this it will need to fine those who pollute.

(vii) This will ensure that the workers' livelihoods are protected and both workers and communities living around the factories enjoy a safe environment.

Q. 2. Write a short note on 'Bhopal gas tragedy'.

Ans. The Bhopal Gas tragedy is the worst air pollution episode ever witnessed in India. It happened on December 3, 1984 in Bhopal.

The Union Carbide factory is located in Bhopal, a town in Madhya Pradesh. The fateful incident happened due to the leakage of lethal gas called methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas from three storage tanks of Union Carbide factory, a Multinational Corporation. MIC is an intermediate which is used in the manufacture of pesticides. Methyl isocyanate (MIC) is a deadly poisonous gas. In the accident, nearly 36 tonnes of poisonous MIC gas released into the air of Bhopal. MIC gas causes burning sensation in the eyes, removes oxygen from the lungs resulting in breathing trouble and chest tightness, and also cyanide generation in the body, which ultimately turn fatal and leads to death.

Bhopal gas tragedy caused the single biggest air pollution tragedy which, according to official sources, claimed 2500 lives, whereas non-governmental sources put the figure much higher. According to the figure released by the government around 17,000 people had been rendered permanent disabled and another 30,000 partially handicapped. Those who suffered mini disability number about 1,50,000.

The Bhopal gas tragedy polluted drinking water, soils, tank and pond water and adversely affected foetus, newly born babies, pregnant woman, young and old people alike. It killed thousands of animals and innumerable microorganisms.

The tragedy is an example of one of the deadliest disaster caused by human negligence in the maintenance of deadly gas such as MIC gas.

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q. 1. How do new laws protect the environment?

Ans. (i) There were very few laws protecting environment in India till 1984.

(ii) The environment was treated as a 'free' entity and any industry could pollute the air and water without any restrictions.

(iii) Whether it was our rivers, air, groundwater the environment was being polluted and the health of people disregarded and neglected.

(iv) After the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984, the Indian government introduced new laws on the environment. New laws were made to check pollution of air, river.

(v) Henceforth, the polluter was to be held accountable for the damage done to the environment.

(vi) The Supreme Court held that the Right to Life is a Fundamental Right under Article 21 of the Constitution and it includes the right to enjoyment of pollution-free water and air, for full enjoyment of life.