

## Very Short Answer Questions

**Q.1. What did 1993 amendment do for Panchayats?**

**Ans.** In 1993, the 73rd constitutional amendment gave Panchayats a legal status and made it mandatory for the state to hold elections after every five years. Provisions for a separate Election Commission has also been made to hold elections to Panchayati Raj. 33% seats were reserved for women in Panchayati Raj institutions.

**Q.2. What are the three levels of Panchayati Raj?**

**Ans.** At present, the Panchayati Raj consists of three levels:

- i. Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat at the village level
- ii. Panchayat Samiti at the block level and
- iii. Zila Parishad at the district level.

**Q.3. Draw the structure of Panchayati Raj in India?**

**Ans.**

### Structure of Panchayati Raj

Apex Level	Zila Parishad
Middle Level	Panchayat Samiti
Bottom Level	Gram Sabha which Elects the Gram Panchayat

**Q.4. What is Gram Sabha?**

**Ans.** Gram Sabha is organised in every village. Every adult citizen who is 18 years and above is a member of Gram Sabha. It can meet anytime to solve a problem.

## Short Answer Questions

**Q.1. What was the state Panchayat under the British rule and after independence till 1993 in India?**

**Ans.** Under the British rule, Panchayats lost their importance. However, the institution was revived in 1958. Till 1993, the institution was under the control of the state governments. However, due to lack of autonomy, excess of state control, politicisation and shortage of funds, government at the local rural level failed to function effectively.

**Q.2. Give source of funds for Gram/Village Panchayat.**

**Ans.** Sources of Funds for Gram/Village Panchayat are:

- i. Grants-in-aid from state government
- ii. Land Revenue
- iii. Taxes on houses and market places
- iv. Grants and donations for community work.

**Q.3. Give source of funds for Panchayat Samiti.**

**Ans.** Sources of funds for Panchayat Samiti are:

- i. Government Grants
- ii. Money from giving licenses
- iii. Taxes on water, land, shops, houses and fairs.

**Q.4. What is Nyaya Panchayat?**

**Ans.** Any dispute in a village, is settled by the Nyaya Panchayat. It consists of five educated people either elected or appointed by the government. One Nyaya Panchayat covers several villages. Their decisions are final. But they solve disputes of a minor nature and can impose a fine of only ` 100.

## Long Answer Questions

### Q.1. Examine the functions of Gram Sabha.

**Ans.** The functions of Gram Sabha are:

- i. It looks after the needs of people and overall development of the village.
- ii. It holds its meetings twice a year. In one meeting it makes the budget while in the other it reviews the progress of development.
- iii. It also elects its President and Vice-President who are called *Pradhan* or *Sarpanch* and *Up-Pradhan* respectively.
- iv. They even elect the other members of the village panchayat.

### Q.2. Examine the composition of Gram/Village Panchayat at village level.

**Ans.** In ancient times, Gram/Village Panchayats used to have five *Panchas*. Nowadays these numbers vary from 20-30 depending upon the size of the village. The members of the Panchayat are elected by the Gram Sabha. Seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) in proportion to their population. Thirty three per cent seats are even reserved for women. The Gram Panchayat elects its Sarpanch who presides over the meetings of the Panchayat.

### Q.3. Examine the functions of Gram/Village Panchayat.

**Ans.** Functions of Villages/Gram Panchayat are as follows:

- i. To undertake public welfare activities like lighting streets, planting trees, building roads and bridges, cleaning ponds, tanks and lakes.
- ii. To open health centres and provide vaccination programmes.
- iii. To keep a record of birth and death in the state.
- iv. To promote primary and adult education.
- v. To promote cottage industries.
- vi. To impose and collect taxes.

### Q.4. Examine composition of Panchayat Samiti at Block Level.

**Ans.** All problems of the village cannot be solved at the local level. To solve this problem and examine the working of Panchayat Samiti, there is a provision for the Panchayat Samiti at the Block Level. Panchayat Samiti is normally of 50 villages. It includes all the *Sarpanches* of village panchayats, Chairman of Town Area Committee, B.D.O. (Block Development Offices), members of Zila Parishad from the block, all area MPs and MLAs and representatives of SC/ST and women. They elect their chairman and Deputy Chairman.

### Q.5. Examine the functions of Panchayat Samiti.

**Ans.** The functions of Panchayat Samiti are as follows:

- i. To supervise developmental projects of the block including provision for water, goods, seeds and manure, arrangement of farm loans and metalling of roads.
- ii. To take care of all health matters like checking diseases and managing health infrastructure.
- iii. To look after literacy and adult education.
- iv. To make provision for animal husbandry, job opportunities and small scale industries.

### **Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)**

#### **Q.1. Examine the composition of Zila Parishad.**

**Ans.** Zila Parishad at the district level is the highest level in the three-tier system. It consists of Chairman of all Block Samities, area MPs and MLAs, five representatives from each registered coopservative society and one representative each of registered social reform committees. Women and SC/ ST members are also given their due representations. The Zila Parishad elects its Chairman and Deputy Chairman for a tenure of 5 years.

#### **Q.2. Examine the functions of Zila Parishad at the district level.**

**Ans.** The functions of Zila Parishad are as follows:

- i. To coordinate the functioning of Block Samities.
- ii. To pass their annual budget.
- iii. To coordinate functions of Panchayat committees.
- iv. It also coordinates implementation of plans ordered by the state government.