

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What are the types of Municipality?

Ans. A municipality is either in the form of a Municipal Committee or a Municipal Council. It is found in towns and small cities.

Q.2. Who is a Councillor?

Ans. The head of a municipality is called a councillor.

Q.3. What is a Mayor?

Ans. The head of a municipal corporation is called a Mayor. He is elected by the members of the corporation.

Q.4. What is 'aldermen'?

Ans. The members of the municipal corporation elect some mature and esteemed people of the city to the corporation. They are called 'aldermen'.

Q.5. Who is a Municipal Commissioner?

Ans. The chief executive officer of a Municipal Corporation is called a Municipal Commissioner. He is elected for five years.

Q.6. What is the situation in Surat today?

Ans. One good lesson that was learnt from Surat episode was to keep the city clean. To this date, it continues to be the second cleanest city after Chandigarh, in India.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Why is it essential to have urban administration?

Ans. In recent times, there has been a rapid growth in the rate of urbanisation due to the growth of cities spread over big areas. Cities are more densely populated than rural areas. The classification of the cities into big, medium and small helps the government to pay attention to their problems. With the evolution of cities developed the problems of narrow roads, traffic jams, water and electricity shortage, crowded hospitals and lack of basic civic amenities. The task of solving all these problems is done by urban administration.

Q.2. What is committee system under a municipality?

Ans. The day-to-day work of Municipality or Municipal Corporation is carried out with a number of committees. Each committee performs several functions. These may include committee on education, public health, water, housing and so on.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Examine the composition of a Municipality or Municipal Corporation.

Ans. All citizens of India who are 18 years of age and above can vote in the municipal elections. The candidates who wish to contest elections must be of 21 years or above. Members of a municipality are dependent upon its population. They vary from 15 to 16. The entire city is divided into a number of wards. One member is elected from each ward. Seats are even reserved for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe in proportion to their population. 33 per cent seats are reserved for women. Members of State Legislature (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) are also members of the council. The council is elected for a term of five years. Its head is a Councillor.

Q.2. Examine the sources of funds of a Municipality.

Ans. Provision for services provided by Municipality requires money. It gets its funds from the following sources:

- i. Taxes on property, shops and offices.
- ii. Water and electricity tax.
- iii. Scavenging tax for cleaning of streets and drains.
- iv. Octroi or Terminal tax.
- v. License fee from commercial establishments.
- vi. Vehicle tax on motorised vehicles.
- vii. Fees for issuing birth and death certificates.

Q.3. Examine the functions of a municipality and municipal corporation.

Ans. The functions of a municipality and municipal corporation are as follows:

- i. To make provision for collection and disposal of garbage.
- ii. To build hospitals and dispensaries and launch immunisation programmes.
- iii. To build public toilets and urinals.
- iv. To provide fresh and clean drinking water and electricity.
- v. To ensure adequate lighting of streets.
- vi. To build schools, public libraries and museums.

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. Is community protest viable in a municipality?

Ans. An individual sometimes cannot make the government act but the community can do wonders. In a small town of Pune, inaction of municipality led to collection of garbage. Children started falling ill. Despite repeated requests to the local councillor there was no action. As a consequence, the local women gathered and along with the local councillor sat on a mass protest outside the Mayor's office. When no action was still taken, women surrounded the local corporation office and made a noisy protest. The corporation was forced to remove the garbage and promised not to neglect it in future.

Q.2. Are private initiatives possible in a Municipality?

Ans. Times have changed now and so have the people and rules, according to the necessities of the people and time. Even the municipal corporation feels that it cannot meet all the expectations of the people. The water and power needs of the people have also gone up. The Commissioners of many municipalities, throughout the country, now hire private contractors to get the garbage collected and processed. The nature of this kind of hiring of private contractors is called sub-contracting. Since the workload has increased it has become necessary to hire the services of private companies. The workers employed by them are either on daily wages or are on lesser payment.