

Class - 9
Subject - Social Science (Civics)
Chapter - 3 ELECTORAL POLITICS

Why do we need elections:-

We need election to choose our representatives at regular intervals and change them if wish to do so.

What makes an election democratic:-

The minimum condition which makes an election democratic are!-

1. Everyone should have right to vote and every vote must have equal value.
2. Political parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and should offer some real choice to the voters.
3. The choice should be offered at regular intervals. Elections must be held regularly after every five years.
4. The candidate preferred by the people should get elected.
5. Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner where people can choose the candidate of their choice.

Electoral Constituencies:- In India we follow an area based system of representation. For this country is divided into different areas for purposes of election called electoral constituency.

Election Campaign:- Election campaigns are the means by which candidates and parties prepare and present their ideas to convince the people and get their vote.

Code of Conduct:- A set of norms and guidelines to be followed by political parties and contesting candidates during election time.

Election Manifesto:- A document published by each political party before election containing the policies and programmes of the party.

Challenges to free and fair elections:-

- * Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory but they do enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties and independents.
- * In some parts of the country, candidates with criminal connection able to secure party tickets from major parties.
- * Some families tend to dominate political parties.
- * Elections offer very little choice to ordinary citizens because the major parties are quite similar in policies and practice .

Q1 Write any five demerits of electoral competition.

Ans. There are the five demerits of electoral competition:-

- i. An electoral competition creates a sense of disunity and factionalism in every locality.
- ii. The pressure of winning electoral fights does not allow sensible long term policies to be formulated.
- iii. Some good people who wish to serve the country do not enter in this arena as they do not like the unhealthy competition in politics.
- iv. Candidates who ask for vote on communal and caste lines destroy the basic idea of democracy.
- v. Different political parties and candidates often use dirty tricks to win elections.

Q2 What is the model code of conduct for election campaign?

Ans. The model code of conduct is a set of norms and guidelines to be followed by all political parties and candidates during elections.

According to this no party or candidate can

- i. Use any place of worship for election propaganda.
- ii. Use government vehicles, aircrafts and officials for elections.
- iii. Lay foundation stones of any project after the date of elections are announced.

Q3. Mention any two provisions which ensure the independency of the Election Commission.

Ans. The two provisions which ensure the independency of the Election Commission are:-

- i. The members of Election Commission are appointed by the President of India but they are not answerable to the President of India.
- ii. It is impossible for the government to remove the members even if their work is not liked by the government.

Q4. Point out differences between General Election and By-Election.

Ans. These are the differences between General Election and By-Election:-

General Election:-

- i. Elections are held in all constituencies at the same time either on the same day or within a few days. This is called a General Election.
- ii. Elections are held regularly after every five years.
- iii. The representative elected in General Election is elected for a full term of five years not for the remaining period of the house.

By Election :

- i. Election is held only for one constituency to fill the vacancy caused by the death or resignation of a member. This is called a By-Election.
- ii. Election is held before the expiry of 6 months from the date the seat falls vacant.
- iii. The representatives elected in By-Election is elected for the remaining period of the house not for five years.

Q5. We have seen why democracies need to have elections. But why do rulers in non democratic countries need to hold elections?

Ans. Rulers in non-democratic countries need to hold elections to show the world that they are not unpopular and they have the support of the people of the country which will improve their image in the eyes of the world.

They also want to show their government and position have been achieved legally and according to their constitutional provisions.

Q6. Why are party agents present in the polling booth and the counting centre?

Ans. Party agents are present in the polling booth and the counting centre to ensure that the process of voting and counting are taking place in a fair way and the rival candidate is not able to adopt any unfair means or practices.

Q7. What are reserved constituencies? Why do we have this system in our country?

Ans. Reserved constituencies are the constituency kept reserve especially for the weaker sections of our society like SCs and STs.

We have this system of reserved constituency to protect the marginalised section of our society. As they may not have the required resources, education and contacts to contest and win, in an open electoral competition. If so happens, then our Parliament and Assemblies would be deprived of the voice of a significant section of our population.