

CBSE 10th Class - Civics - Chapter 1

Power Sharing

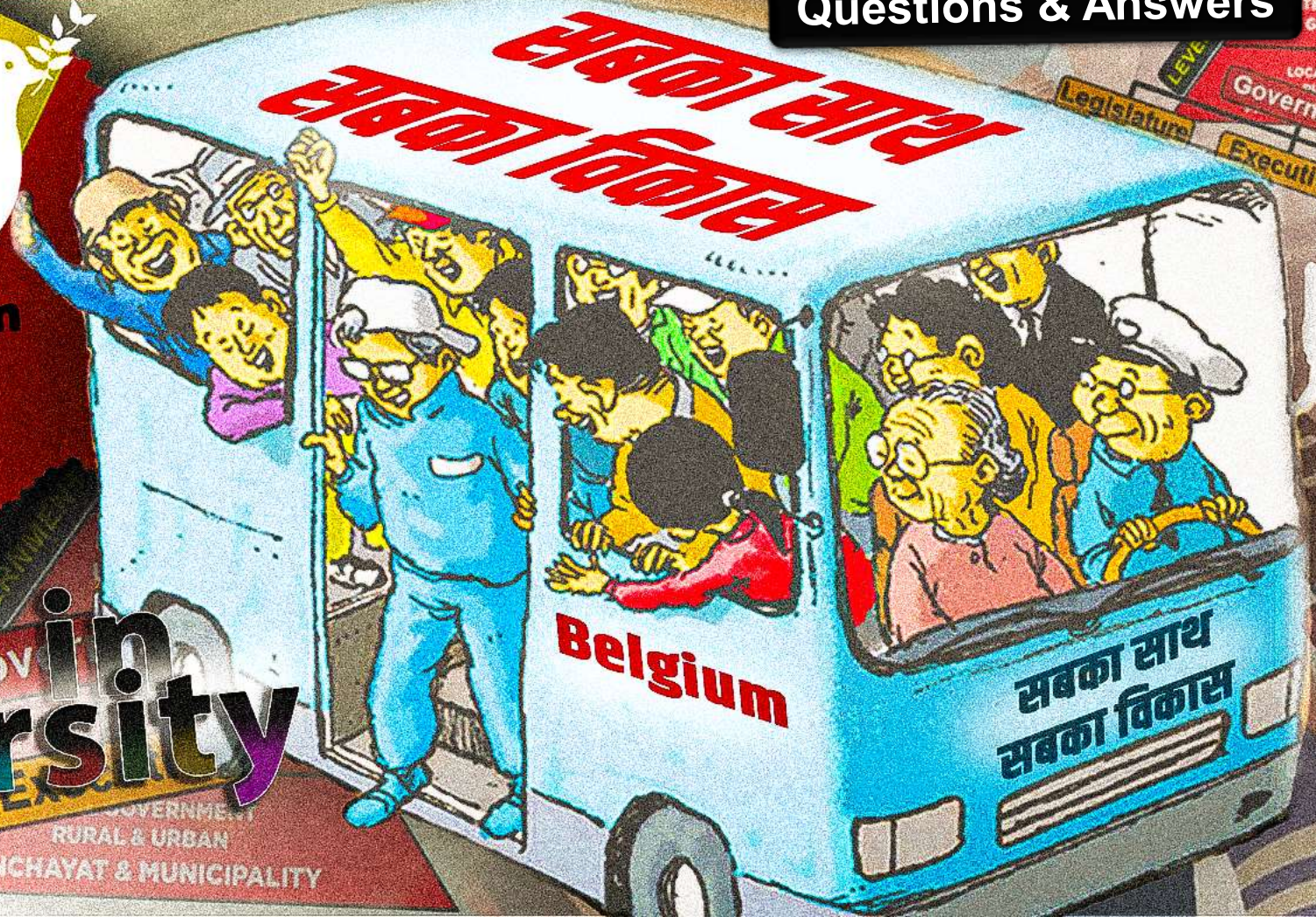
Questions & Answers



Belgium

Sri Lanka

Unity in Diversity



STATE OR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RURAL & URBAN
PANCHAYAT & MUNICIPALITY

Legislature

Executive

Judiciary

Legislature

GOVERNMENT
RURAL & URBAN
PANCHAYAT & MUNICIPALITY

Belgium

सबका साथ
सबका विकास

Q1. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

Textbook Exercise

The major forms of power sharing in modern democracies are:

- ✓ *Power sharing among the different organs of government. (Horizontal power sharing).*
- ✓ *Power sharing among governments at different levels. (Vertical power sharing).*
- ✓ *Power sharing among different social groups (Ex. Sc, ST, OBC, Gen, Women etc.)*
- ✓ *Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups, and movements. (Ex. business groups, farmers Union, and industrial workers union etc.)*

Q2. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing with an example from the Indian context.

- ✓ *In the Indian context, a prudential reason for power sharing is to avoid conflict and to maintain social and political stability. For this, the power is shared among central & state government (Federal System) which helps accommodate diverse interests and reduces tensions. Another example of prudential power sharing in India is that, Hindi has not been imposed on the southern states, because imposing the will of majority undermines the unity of the nation and create conflict as has happened in Sri Lanka.*
- ✓ *On the other hand, a moral reason for power sharing upholds democratic principles. Power is shared to ensures that all groups, including backward sections & minorities, have a say in governance, which upholds fairness and justice. For instance, in India, reservation policies in legislatures and government jobs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes provide them representation and participation, reflecting moral fairness in power sharing.*

Q3. After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why?

Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Thomman - Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.

Mathayi – Power sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional divisions.

Ouseph – Every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions.

Today's modern society is not uniform or monotonous, some form of division always exists. Thus, I agree with Ouseph's conclusion that every society needs some form of power sharing, even if it is small or does not have social divisions. Power sharing ensures fairness, prevents concentration of power, and promotes cooperation among people, which is essential for peace and stability in any society.

Q4. The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Belgium's power-sharing model is designed to protect the interests of different linguistic communities. Banning French in schools contradicts this spirit, as it marginalizes French speakers and undermines the principle of equal respect for all linguistic groups.

Thus, the measure by Mayor of Merchtem is not keeping with Belgium's power-sharing arrangements. The ban ignores the regional differences and cultural diversities. As 59 per cent of the population in the Flemish region speaks Dutch, the ban on speaking French in the town's schools would create problems for French speakers, it will also prevent French and Dutch speakers to mingle with each other, and also create separatist feelings of distrust and suspicion.

Q5. Read the following passage and pick out any one of the prudential reasons for power sharing offered in this.

“We need to give more power to the panchayats to realize the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the hopes of the makers of our Constitution. Panchayati Raj establishes true democracy. It restores power to the only place where power belongs in a democracy – in the hands of the people. Giving power to Panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency. When people participate in the planning and implementation of developmental schemes, they would naturally exercise greater control over these schemes. This would eliminate the corrupt middlemen. Thus, Panchayati Raj will strengthen the foundations of our democracy.”

As per above passage – Giving more powers to panchayats is very prudential. It will benefit people and democracy in many ways such as:

- ✓ *It is a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency.*
- ✓ *Panchayati Raj establishes true democracy.*
- ✓ *It restores power to the people.*
- ✓ *It reduces corruption and increases administrative efficiency.*
- ✓ *People control over development schemes.*
- ✓ *It will strengthen the foundations of democracy.*



Q6. Different arguments are usually put forth in favour of and against power sharing. Identify those which are in favour of power sharing and select the answer using the codes given below?

Power sharing:

- A. reduces conflict among different communities*
- B. decreases the possibility of arbitrariness*
- C. delays decision making process*
- D. accommodates diversities*
- E. increases instability and divisiveness*
- F. promotes people's participation in government*
- G. undermines the unity of a country*

(a)	A	B	D	F
(b)	A	C	E	F
(c)	A	B	D	G
(d)	B	C	D	G

Q7. Consider the following statements about power sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka.

- A. In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French-speaking community.*
- B. In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of the Sinhala-speaking majority.*
- C. The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power sharing to protect their culture, language and equality of opportunity in education and jobs.*
- D. The transformation of Belgium from unitary government to a federal one prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.*

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) A, B, C and D (b) A, B and D (c) C and D (d) B, C and D

Statement A is incorrect because, in Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority did not impose domination; instead, Belgium adopted power-sharing arrangements to ensure equality between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities. The rest of the statements are true.



Q8. Match List I (forms of power sharing) with List II (forms of government) and select the correct answer using the codes given below in the lists:

List I	List II
1. Power is shared among different organs of government.	a. Community government.
2. Power is shared among governments at different levels.	b. Separation of powers.
3. Power shared by different social groups.	c. Coalition government.
4. Power shared by two or more political parties.	d. Federal government.

	1	2	3	4
(a)	D	A	B	C
(b)	B	C	D	A
(c)	B	D	A	C
(d)	C	D	A	B

Q9. Consider the following two statements on power sharing and select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. Power sharing is good for democracy.
B. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
Which of these statements are true and false?

(a) A is true but B is false
(b) Both A and B are true
(c) Both A and B are false
(d) A is false but B is true



Q. Choose the correct option :
Power sharing is desirable because it helps :
 (a) To increase pressure on government.
 (b) To reduce possibilities of conflicts.
 (c) To generate awareness among people.
 (d) To increase percentage of voters.

Q. Which of the following is an example of horizontal sharing of power?
 (a) Power sharing between different states.
 (b) Power sharing between different organs of the government.
 (c) Power sharing between different levels of the government.
 (d) Power sharing between different political parties.

Q. Which major social group constituted the largest share in population of Sri Lanka?
 (a) Sinhalas
 (b) Sri Lankan Tamils
 (c) Indian Tamils
 (d) Muslims

Q. Vertical division of power is :
 (a) a system in which each organ of government checks the others.
 (b) a type of distribution in which power is shared among different organs of government.
 (c) a type of distribution of power which involves the higher and lower levels of government.
 (d) a type of government elected by people.

Q. Consider the following statements about power sharing in Belgium and Sri Lanka :

A. In Belgium the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French speaking community.

B. In Sri Lanka the policies of government ensured the dominance of the Sinhala speaking majority.

C. The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power sharing to protect their culture, language and equality of opportunity in education and jobs.

D. The transformation of Belgium from unitary government to a federal one prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Which of the statements given are correct ?

- (a) A, B, C and D
- (b) A, B, and D
- (c) C and D
- (d) B, C and D



Q. Who elects the community government in Belgium?

- (a) People belonging to one language community only.
- (b) By the leader of Belgium.
- (c) The citizens of the whole country.
- (d) The community leaders of Belgium.

Q. The Community Government signifies:

- (a) The powers of government regarding community development.
- (b) The powers of the government regarding law making for the community.
- (c) The powers of the government regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.
- (d) The government enjoys privileges to safeguard the interest of a particular community.

Q. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- (a) In Belgium, leaders realized that unity of the country is possible only by sharing power.
- (b) In Sri Lanka, the majority community wants to force domination over others.
- (c) In Sri Lanka, the demand for more autonomy to provinces populated by Tamils has been granted.
- (d) Division of Belgium along linguistic lines was averted due to power sharing.

Q. A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants is:

- (a) Community Government
- (b) Federal Government
- (c) Majoritarianism
- (d) Prudential

Q. System of 'checks and balances' means:

- (a) Horizontal distribution of powers.
- (b) Separation of powers.
- (c) Put a check on the exercise of unlimited powers of the organs of government by maintaining a balance of power among various institutions.
- (d) Federal division of powers.

Q. Power sharing is :

- (a) the very spirit of democracy.
- (b) separation of powers at different levels.
- (c) system of checks and balances.
- (d) a type of balancing powers.

Q. In India, power sharing mechanism does not directly involve:

- (a) Judiciary
- (b) Legislature
- (c) Executive
- (d) Industry



Q. Coalition government is the government:
(a) based on prudential and moral reasons.
(b) government of the majority community.
(c) the government elected by the people.
(d) an alliance government formed by two or more parties, if no single party gets a majority in the election.

Q. Prudential reasons of power sharing stresses on:
(a) The stability of political order.
(b) To reduce the possibility of conflict between social group.
(c) A fair chance/share to minority.
(d) All the above.

Q. The majority of population in Brussels, the capital city of Belgium speaks :
(a) French
(b) Dutch
(c) German
(d) Roman

Q. The word 'ethnic' signifies :
(a) different religions.
(b) social division on shared culture.
(c) a violent conflict between opposite groups.
(d) a careful calculation of gains and losses.

Q. Which statement justifies the ethnic complexity of Sri Lanka?
(a) Sinhalese – 80%, Tamils – 20%
(b) Sinhalese – 60%, Tamils – 40%
(c) Sinhalese – 74%, Tamils – 18%
(d) Sinhalese – 76%, Tamils – 18%

Q. Which are the important features of prudential reason ?
(i) *Emphasizes intrinsic worth of power sharing.*
(ii) *Based on careful calculation of gains or losses.*
(iii) *Based on moral consideration.*
(iv) *Stresses on beneficial consequences.*
(a) (ii) and (iii)
(b) (i) and (iv)
(c) (ii) and (iv)
(d) (i) and (iii)

Q. The proportion of Tamils in Sri Lanka's total population is about:
(a) 8 percent
(b) 18 percent
(c) 28 percent
(d) 38 percent

Q. Power sharing does not:
(a) accommodate diversities.
(b) speed up the decision making process.
(c) increases conflict among different communities.
(d) All the above.



Q. Consider the statements on Ethnic composition :

- (a) The Ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex because of diverse language speaking people like Dutch speaking, French speaking and German speaking.
- (b) French speaking community was in minority and more powerful.
- (c) Dutch speaking community was in majority and less powerful.
- (d) There was conflict between the French and the Dutch communities.

Q. The religion of state in Sri Lanka is :

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Christianity
- (c) Hinduism
- (d) Islam.

Q. A strategy under which all the major segments of the society are provided with a share of power in the governance of the country is known as:

- (a) secularism
- (b) power sharing
- (c) majoritarianism
- (d) majoritarianism.

Q. The majority of the population in Belgium lives in:

- (a) Wallonia region and speaks French
- (b) Wallonia region and speaks Dutch
- (c) Flemish region and speaks Dutch
- (d) Flemish region and speaks French

Q. Coalition Government implies :

- (a) power sharing among different organs of the government.
- (b) power sharing by different communities.
- (c) power sharing by two or more political parties.
- (d) power sharing within the government at different levels.

Q. The power of different levels of government shows:

- (a) separation of powers.
- (b) community Government.
- (c) coalition Government.
- (d) the federal division of power.

Q. Belgium successfully solved its problem by :

- (a) rejecting the policy of majoritarianism.
- (b) developing a power sharing mechanism.
- (c) respecting the interest of different communities.
- (d) All the above.

Q. Belgium is a small country in Europe and shares borders with France, _____, Germany, and Luxembourg.

- a. Italy
- b. Sweden
- c. Netherlands
- d. Spain



Q. Match the following :

- A. Ethnic Composition
- B. Majoritarianism
- C. Civil War
- D. Prudential reason
- E. Vertical division
- F. Horizontal

- (i) A violent conflict between opposite groups within a country.
- (ii) Based on prudence, i.e., a careful calculation of gains or losses.
- (iii) A social division based on shared culture.
- (iv) A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country.
- (v) Power is shared among power different organs of the government.
- (vi) Power is involved in the division of the higher and lower power levels of government.

- (a) A – (iv), B – (iii), C – (ii), D – (i), E – (v), F – (vi)
- (b) A – (iii), B – (iv), C – (i), D – (ii), E – (vi), F – (v)
- (c) A – (i), B – (ii), C – (iii), D – (iv), E – (v), F – (vi)
- (d) A – (ii), B – (iv), C – (iv), D – (v), E – (vi), F – (i)

Q. Consider the following two statements on power-sharing and select the answer using codes given below:

- A. Power sharing is good for democracy.
- B. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

Which of the statements are true and false?

- (a) A is true but B is false
- (b) Both A and B are true
- (c) Both A and B are false
- (d) A is false but B is true.

Q. Choose the correct statements:

- The official religion of Sri Lanka is Buddhism.
- Sri Lankan Tamil refers to Tamil natives of the country.
- The leaders of Belgium amended their constitution 3 times.

- (a) 1, 2
- (b) 1, 3
- (c) Only 3
- (d) 1, 2, 3



Q. In Sri Lanka, an Act was passed in _____ to recognize _____ as the only official language, disregarding _____.

- a). 1948, Tamil, Sinhala
- b). 1956, Sinhala, Tamil
- c). 1948, Sinhala, Tamil
- d). 1956, Tamil, Sinhala

Q. Population of Sri Lankan Tamils is concentrated in _____ region of Sri Lanka.

- a). North and South
- b). North and East
- c). East and West
- d). South and East

Q. Choose the correct statement(s) about Belgium:

1. *The French-speaking community in Belgium was rich and powerful.*
2. *The Dutch language is dominantly spoken in Belgium.*
3. *Brussels is the capital city of Belgium.*
4. *In Belgium, the leaders realized that the unity of the country is possible by respecting the feelings and interests of different countries.*

- a). 1,2,3
- b). 1,3
- c). 2,3,4
- d). All are correct

Q. Even though Ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the parliament or state assemblies. Such an arrangement is called:

- a). System of checks and balances
- b). Power sharing with different political parties
- c). Power sharing with pressure groups
- d). Vertical division of power

Q. Match the following keywords from column A with their explanation in column B:

Column A (Keywords)	Column B (Explanation)
a. Ethnic	i. A belief that let the majority community rule a country.
b. Civil war	ii. Calculation of gains and losses.
c. Prudential	iii. Conflict between opposing groups.
d. Majoritarian	iv. Division based on shared culture.

A	a-iv	b-iii	c-i	d-ii
B	a-i	b-ii	c-iv	d-iii
C	a-iii	b-iv	c-ii	d-i
D	a-iv	b-iii	c-ii	d-i

Q. Which of the following statements accurately distinguishes between Majoritarianism and Power sharing?

- a) Majoritarianism emphasizes the dominance of the majority community, while Power sharing emphasizes the sharing of power among different groups.
- b) Majoritarianism emphasizes the need for consensus building, while Power sharing emphasizes the exclusion of minority groups.
- c) Majoritarianism emphasizes the importance of accommodating minority interests, while Power sharing emphasizes the need for majority rule.
- d) Majoritarianism emphasizes the need for peaceful resolution of conflicts, while Power sharing emphasizes the use of force to impose the majority's will.

Q. Indicate true and false for given statements and give valid reasons:

- ✓ In Belgium, the Dutch speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French speaking community.
- ✓ In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the domination of the Sinhala speaking majority.
- ✓ The Transformation of Belgium from a unitary government to a federal one presented possible division of the country on linguistic lines.
- ✓ The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power to protect their culture, language, and equality of opportunity in education and jobs.



Q. Apart from the Central and the State governments, which is the third type of government practised in Belgium?

Ans: Community government

Q. Define majoritarianism.

Ans: Majoritarianism is rule by majority community by disregarding the needs and wishes of the minority community.

Q. Which language was recognized as the only official language of Sri Lanka in 1956?

Ans: Sinhala

Q. What is the language spoken by the people residing in the Wallonia region of Belgium?

Ans: People residing in Wallonia region of Belgium speak French.

Q. What is 'Power Sharing'?

Ans: Power sharing is a practice in conflict resolution where multiple groups distribute political, military, or economic power among themselves according to agreed rules.

Q. How many people speak French and Dutch in the capital city of Brussels?

Ans. 80% French and 20% Dutch speaking.

Q. What is the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka?

Ans. The Sinhala speakers are 74% and Tamil speakers are 18% and among Tamils, there are two subgroups – Sri Lankan Tamils and Indian Tamils.



Q. What is meant by the system of 'checks and balances'?

The horizontal distribution of power ensures that power is shared among different organs of government—the legislature, executive and judiciary. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. The horizontal distribution of power is also called a system of checks and balances. This system ensures that none of these organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other.

Q. Define the term 'Ethnic'.

Ethnic means a social division based on shared culture and common descent. People belonging to an ethnic group need not have the same religion or nationality.

Q. After independence, Sri Lanka witnessed the supremacy of which community?

Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948 and the majoritarian elected government adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Q. What is vertical division of power?

When power is shared among governments at different levels, i.e., the Union or the Central Government, the State Government and the Municipality and Panchayat at the lower level. This division of power involving higher and lower levels of government is called the vertical division of power.

Q. What measure was adopted by the democratically elected government of Sri Lanka to establish Sinhala Supremacy?

- ✓ *In 1956, an Act was passed to make Sinhala the official language.*
- ✓ *The government followed preferential policies favouring Sinhala applicants for University positions and government jobs.*
- ✓ *Majoritarian government of Sri Lanka declared Buddhism as state religion.*



Q. Explain the consequences of the majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan government.

Consequences of majoritarian policies adopted by the Sri Lankan Government:

- ✓ Tamils felt the government was not sensitive to the Tamil language and culture.
- ✓ Tamils felt discriminated against in jobs and education.
- ✓ Tamils felt the government was practicing religious discrimination.
- ✓ Relations between Tamils and Sinhalese became strained.
- ✓ Many political organizations were formed demanding separate Tamil Eelam (state) in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The distrust between the two communities turned into a civil war, in which, thousands of people from both communities were killed.
- ✓ It caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural, and economic life of the country.

Q. Bring out any two sharp contrasts between Belgium and Sri Lankan approach.

Sri Lanka and Belgium are both democratic countries yet have very diverse social setups. Both countries have adopted very different approaches when it comes to power-sharing. Belgium adopted the policy of accommodation of social and ethnic divisions. On the other hand, Sri Lanka also adopted a democratic system but followed majoritarian policies.

- ✓ Under the Belgium model of democracy, power was shared among two ethnic groups. Sri Lanka favored the interests of the majority Sinhala community.
- ✓ In Belgium, both groups had an equal share in the working of government but in Sri Lanka, the minority community was isolated.
- ✓ In Belgium, to maintain political stability and unity, equal representation was provided to both groups, also the community government of both ethnic groups existed at the local level. Sri Lanka, however, had no such arrangement.
- ✓ Belgium's constitution was amended four times before arriving at a final draft to prevent civil strife. In Sri Lanka, majoritarianism led to civil war for twenty long years.



Q. “Sharing of powers makes a country more powerful and united.” Do you agree with this statement and why?

Or,

Q. “Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.” Justify this statement with three suitable points.

Or,

Q. How far do you agree with the statement that power sharing is keeping with the “Spirit” of democracy?

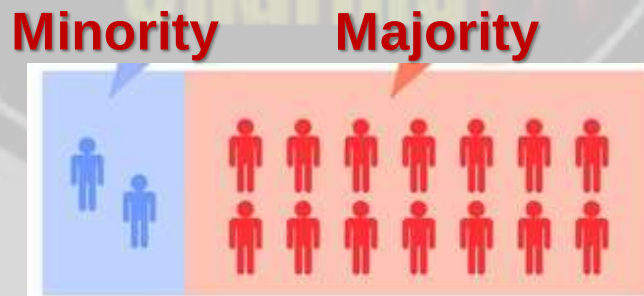
Power sharing keeps up with the ‘Spirit’ of Democracy as:

- ✓ *Power sharing ensures that all people have a stake in government.*
- ✓ *Power sharing ensures maximum participation. It upholds the concept of people’s rule.*
- ✓ *It always brings better outcomes in democracy.*
- ✓ *It ensures that people are consulted on how they are to be governed.*
- ✓ *Power sharing accommodates diverse groups. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.*

**सबका साथ
सबका विकास.....**

Q. What is majoritarianism? Is it wrong if a majority community in a country rules? Give reasons to justify your answer.

- ✓ *A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority is called majoritarianism.*
- ✓ *Yes, it is wrong if only majority community in a country rules by imposing its own will & representation.*
- ✓ *The very idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. A positive attitude towards diversity and willingness to accommodate it, is good for democracy. Power in the hands of one community will make the other community feel marginalized, deprived and discriminated. The struggle against such inequalities sometimes takes the path of conflict and defiance of State power as in Sri Lanka.*



Q. Compare the different ways in which the Belgians and the Sri Lankans have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity.

Both Belgium and Sri Lanka are democracies, yet they have dealt with the problem of cultural diversity very differently.

Belgium:

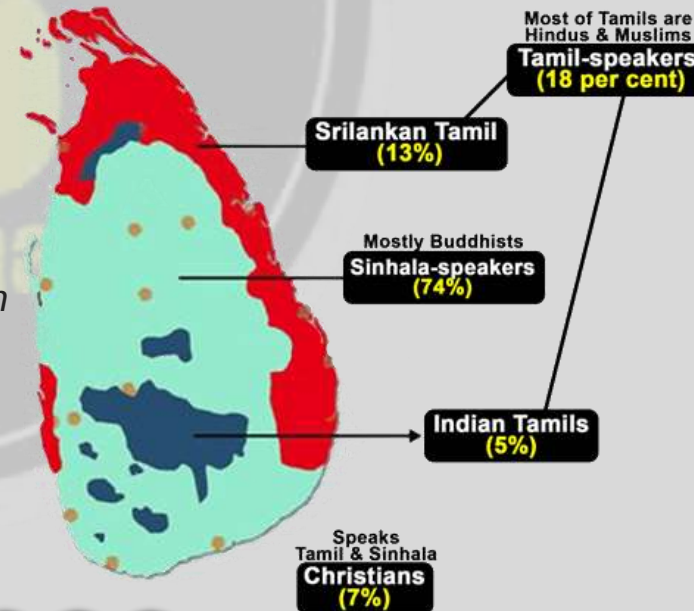
- ✓ Leaders realized that for the unity of the country it is important to respect the feelings and interests of different communities. The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking people shall be equal in the Central Government. Both Dutch and French communities share power on an equal basis at the Centre. Along with the State Government, both communities have a third kind of Government called 'Community Government' which decides on cultural, education and language related issues. Between, 1970 and 1993, the Constitution was amended four times to enable all linguistic groups to live together within the same country.

Sri Lanka:

- ✓ In Sri Lanka, there are two major communities, the Sinhalese speaking (74%) and Tamil speaking (18%). The majority community, the Sinhalese have forced their domination over Tamils, refusing to share power. In 1956, the Government passed an Act to recognize Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil. Both communities have lived in tension as the Sinhalese have denied political, educational, religious, employment and economic rights to the Tamils leading to Civil War.

Q. What is the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka?

- ✓ Sri Lanka's population consists mainly of the following ethnic groups:
- ✓ Sinhalese: Around 74-75% of the population. They are predominantly Buddhist and primarily speak Sinhala.
- ✓ Total Tamil population 18%. Most of Tamils are Hindus & Muslims.
- ✓ Sri Lankan Tamils: Approximately 12-13%. They mainly live in the Northern and Eastern provinces and speak Tamil.
- ✓ Indian Tamils: About 4-5%. They are descendants of laborers brought by the British and primarily work in the central highlands.
- ✓ Christians 7% speaks Tamil & Sinhala.

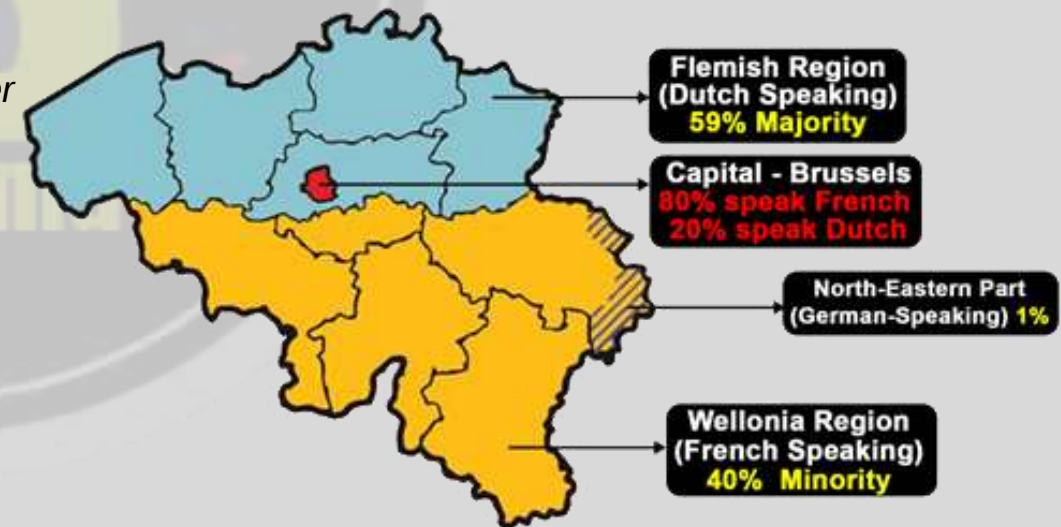


Q. Differentiate between the horizontal and vertical division of powers.

Horizontal Division of Power	Vertical Division of Power
1. Horizontal Division of Power is a power-sharing arrangement in which power is shared among different organs of government such as the executive, legislative, and judiciary.	1. In the vertical division of power, power is shared among governments at different levels like union, state, and local levels of government i.e., it involves higher and lower levels of government.
2. In the horizontal division of power, different organs of government exercise different powers.	2. In the vertical division of power, the constitution clearly lays down the power of different levels of government.
3. Horizontal distribution specifies the concept of checks and balances in order to check the exercise of unlimited powers of the organs.	3. There is no concept of checks and balances because powers are clearly given by the constitution from the higher level to the lower level.

Q. What is the ethnic composition of Belgium ?

- ✓ Belgium is a small country in Europe, having a population of a little over one crore.
- ✓ 59 per cent of the country's total population lives in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language.
- ✓ Another 40 per cent people live in Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German.
- ✓ Whereas in the Belgian capital, Brussels, 80 per cent of the population is French-speaking and 20 per cent is Dutch-speaking.



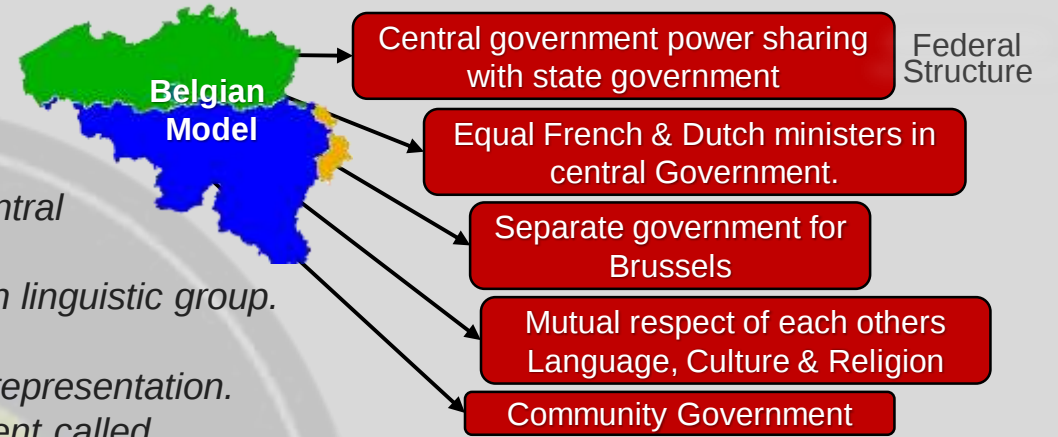
Q. Describe the power-sharing approach by Belgium.

OR

Q. Describe the accommodation approach by Belgium.

Some of the elements of the Belgium model are:

- ✓ *The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.*
- ✓ *Some special laws required the support of the majority of members from each linguistic group.*
- ✓ *The state governments are not subordinate to the central government.*
- ✓ *Brussels has a separate government in which both communities have equal representation.*
- ✓ *Apart from the central and state government, there is a third kind of government called 'community government'. Community government is elected by people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French, and German-speaking.*



Q. Why power sharing is desirable? Explain by giving prudential and moral reasons.

When the power does not rest with any one organ of the state rather it is shared among different levels/organs of the government it is called power sharing.

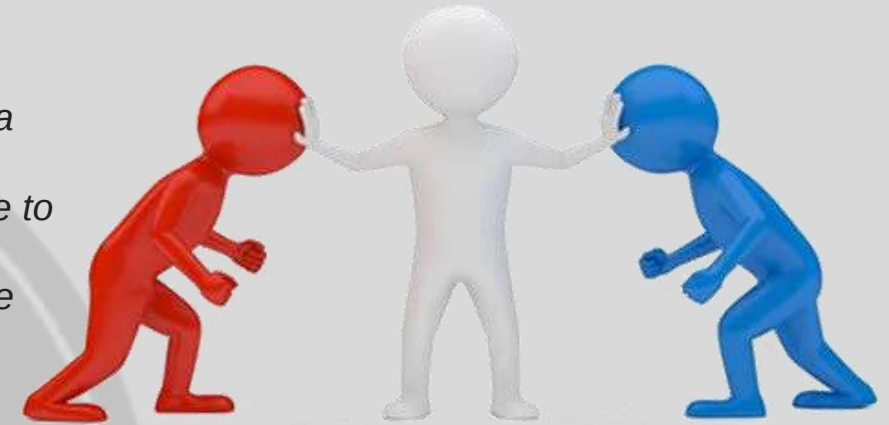
Power sharing is desirable in democracy because:

- ✓ *Prudential reasons:*
 - *It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.*
 - *Reducing conflict between social groups ensures the stability of political order.*
 - *It promotes the unity of the nation.*
- ✓ *Moral reasons:*
 - *Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effect.*
 - *People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.*
 - *Power sharing helps in producing a legitimate government where citizens through participation acquire a stake in the system.*

Q. How far do you agree with the statement that power sharing is keeping with the spirit of democracy?

Power sharing is desirable in democracy because:

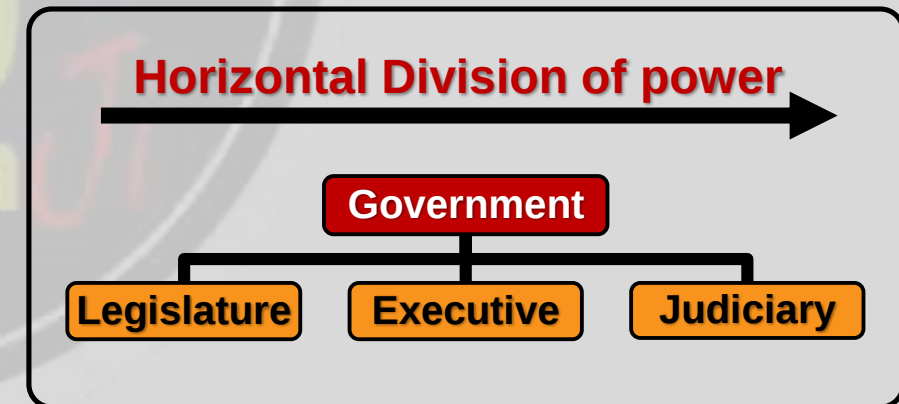
- ✓ *it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.*
- ✓ *Conflict between social groups leads to violence and political instability. Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.*
- ✓ *A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.*
- ✓ *A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.*
- ✓ *Prudential reasons stress that power sharing brings out better outcomes whereas moral reasons emphasize the act of power sharing as valuable.*



Q. What are the advantages of horizontal power-sharing? Explain with an example.

The advantages of horizontal power-sharing are:

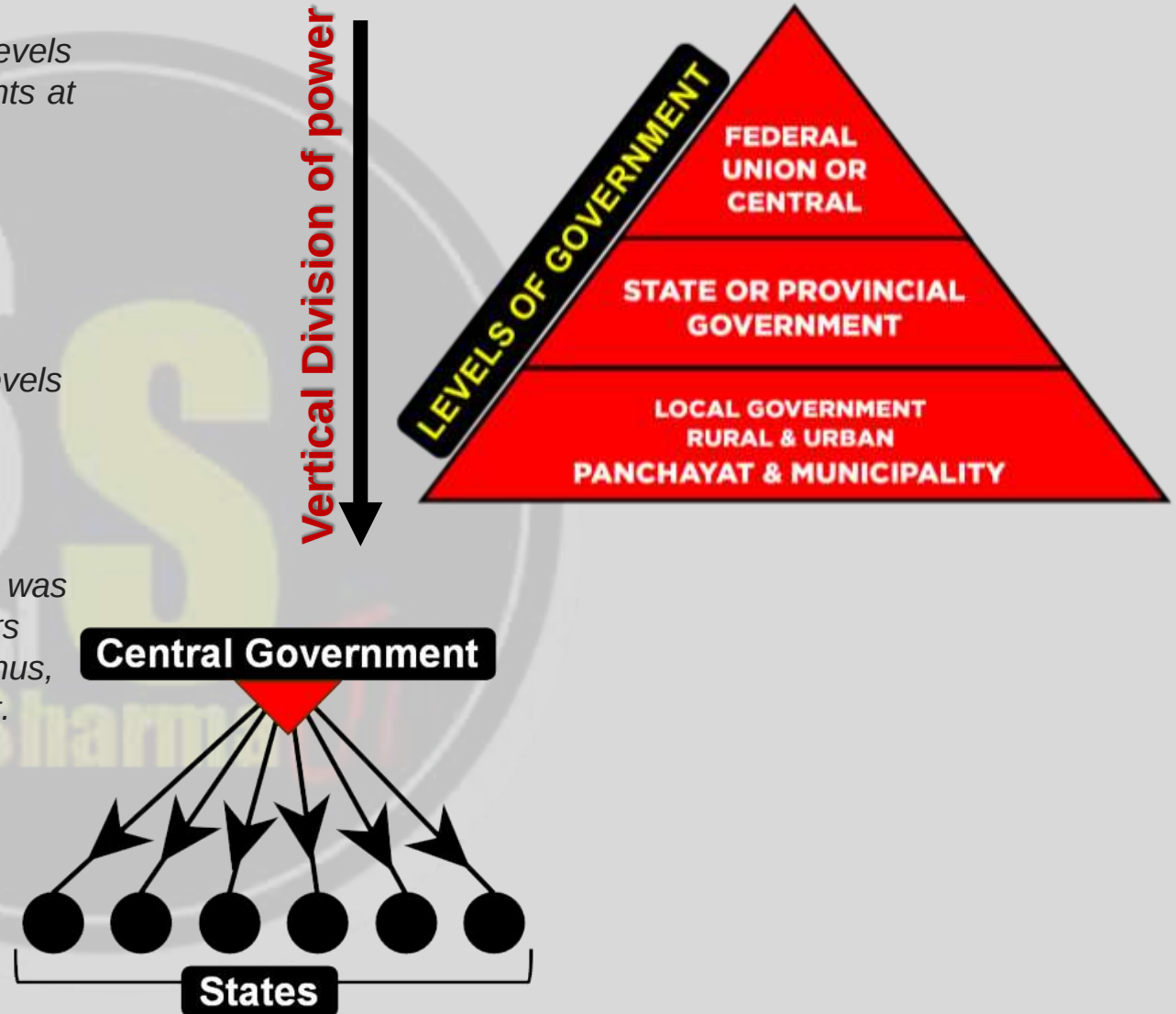
- ✓ *The power is shared among different organs of government equally.*
- ✓ *Horizontal power-sharing places all the organs of the government i.e., legislature, executive, and judiciary at the same level (without being subordinate to other).*
- ✓ *Under this kind of power-sharing no organ can exercise unlimited powers (or absolute power).*
- ✓ *That is why this system is also known as the system of checks and balances.*
- ✓ *Example: In India, though the ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the parliament or state legislatures. Similarly, although the judges are appointed by the executive they can check the functioning of the executive or laws made by the legislatures.*



Q. Describe the vertical and horizontal forms of power sharing exercised in India.

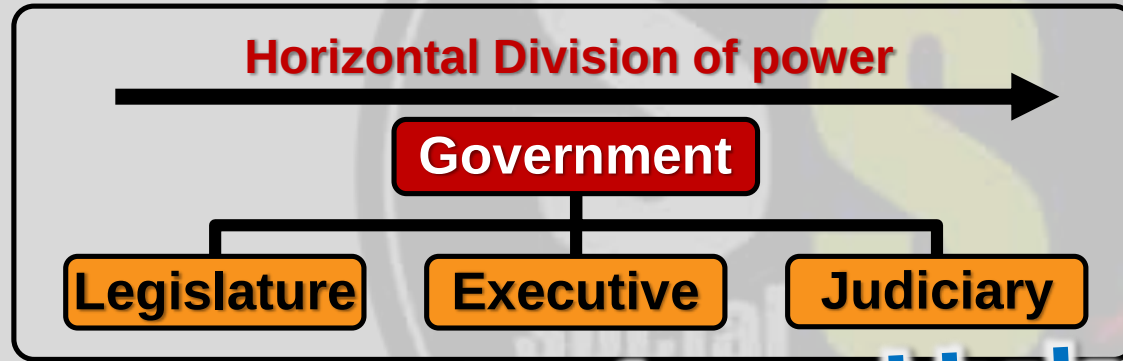
Vertical distribution of power:

- ✓ When power can be shared among governments at different levels — a general government for the entire country and governments at provincial or regional level. Ex. the Union or the Central Government, the State Government and the Municipality and Panchayat at the lower level.
- ✓ This division of power involving higher and lower levels of government is called the vertical division of power or Federal Division of power.
- ✓ Indian Constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government with different functions & responsibilities (7th Schedule of Indian Constitution).
- ✓ This has been done to avoid conflicts between different ethnic groups.
- ✓ Example: A key change in the Constitution of Belgium in 1993 was that the regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the Central Government. Thus, Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.



Horizontal distribution of power:

- ✓ When power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. This is horizontal distribution of power. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
- ✓ In India the judiciary has an independent status. The Supreme Court is the apex court of justice. The Parliament is the legislative body where the laws governing the country are made and the Executive is the implementing body.
- ✓ In a democracy, ministers and government officials exercise power. They are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. The judges appointed by the executive can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislature.
- ✓ The horizontal distribution of power is also called a system of checks and balances. This system ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the other. This results in a balance of power among various institutions.



System of checks and balances

Practice Questions

Q. Write an essay on the ethnic composition of India.

Q. What are the different forms of power-sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

Q. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power-sharing with an example from the Indian context.

Q. “Power Sharing is the very spirit of democracy”. Justify the statement.

Q. What is the difference between Prudential and Moral Decision making?

Q. Is Power sharing is suited only for big countries that have regional divisions? Give reasons for your answer.

Q. Every society needs some form of power sharing even if they are small or do not have social divisions. Explain.





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