

Short-Answer Questions

1. What is meant by the term 'Constitution' ?

Ans. Constitution is a set of rules by which / according to which the government of a country runs.

2. Why is Constitution important for a democratic country ? Give one reason.

Ans. It defines the powers of the Government very clearly so that it cannot misuse them and violate the rights of the citizens.

3. Name the body which framed the Constitution of India. **Ans.** The Constituent Assembly framed our constitution.

4. Give the names of any five members of the Constituent Assembly.

Ans. The Constituent Assembly includes—Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sarojini Naidu, Dr. H.P. Modi.

5. Who was the President of the Constituent Assembly ? **Ans.** Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected the president of the

Constituent Assembly.

6. Who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee ? **Ans.** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the chairman of the Drafting Committee.

7. What do you understand by the term 'Preamble' to the Constitution ?

Ans. It is an introductory part of the Constitution though not an operative part of the Constitution.

8. What are the main ideas contained in the Preamble to the Constitution?

Ans. The main ideas are to make India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic.

9. Mention four basic objectives given in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Ans. Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

10. Mention the date on which the Indian Constitution came into force.

Ans. 26th January 1950

11. Whose 'WILL' is expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution ?

Ans. The people of India

12. The Preamble to the Constitution describes India as a Republic. What is the main feature of the Republican form of Government ?

Ans. A Republic is a nation which has an elected person as the Head of the State with no hereditary rights.

13. Why is 26th January, 1950 regarded as a red-letter day in the History of India ?

Ans. On December 29, 1929 the congress had passed a resolution at its Lahore session declaring Purna Swaraj as its goal on January 26, 1930, Tricolour was hoisted to observe Purna Swaraj and it was decided to observe it as Independence Day every year.

14. The Preamble to the Constitution resolves to secure to all citizens of India 'Liberty'. State what the Preamble says about it.

Ans. Liberty of thought, expression, belief and faith.

15. Why and when was the word 'Socialist' added to the Preamble to the Constitution of India ?

Ans. The 42nd Constitution Amendment Act 1976 made the change. This amendment lays stress on Secular and Socialist aspects to make the intention of the Constitution more clear.

16. Give one reason why the makers of Constitution wanted India to be a Secular State.

Ans. The word secular was also inserted in the preamble to the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment Act simply to reaffirm the faith of the nation in making the Indian body politic above petty religious considerations while showing due respect to all religions. The 42nd Amendment lays down that the term secular means that all religions command equal respect and recognition from the State.

17. Explain the term 'Republic'.

Ans. A Republic is a nation which has an elected person as the Head of the state with no hereditary rights.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

1. With reference to the Constitution of India explain the following :

- (a) Describe the term Constitution.
- (b) Who framed it ?
- (c) On which day was the Constitution enforced? What is the significance of this day?

Ans. (a) Now a question generally arises as to what we mean by the word 'Constitution'. In simple language, we can say that Constitution is the set of rules according to which the government of a country runs. On the one hand it defines the position and powers of the three organs of the government — the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, and on the other hand it explains the relations between the government and the citizens. It defines the powers of the Government very clearly so that it cannot misuse them and violate the rights of the citizens. It takes all precautions to safeguard the rights of the citizens.

- (b) The Constituent Assembly framed it.

The Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950. This date has a great significance in India's fight for independence or Swaraj. On December 29, 1929, the Congress had passed a resolution at its Lahore Session, declaring 'Purna Swaraj' (complete independence) as its goal. On January 26, 1930 tricolour flag was hoisted to observe 'Purna Swaraj' and the Congress decided to observe 26 January as 'Independence Day' every year.

2. The Constitution of India is introduced to us through a Preamble. In this connection explain the following :

- (a) The meaning of the term Preamble
- (b) Its needs or importance.

Ans. (a) The Constitution of the Republic of India is introduced to us through a wisely formulated Preamble. It is an introductory part of the Constitution, though not an operative part of the Constitution. The Preamble has great importance because of the fact that it not only declares the form of the provisions but also the main objectives of the Indian Republic. The Preamble reads : We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens.

- (b) The Preamble has great importance because of the fact that it declares the form of the provisions and the main objectives of the Indian Republic. Our Preamble represents the ideals of the Constitution of India. It consists of five basic features of the Constitution— Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic and Republic and four ideals i.e., Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. It is necessary to refer to the Preamble which should form the basis for interpretation.

3. The Preamble declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic. In this context explain the following :

- (a) Sovereign (b) Socialist (c) Secular
- (d) Democratic (e) Republic.

Ans. In the Preamble, the main objectives of the Indian Republic have been shown in capital letters, and the words SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLIC appear in bold capitals. That is because of their importance in the context of New India envisaged by the fathers of the Constitution. All these terms along with the terms 'JUSTICE, LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY and INTEGRITY' require further explanation.

- (a) **Sovereign:** A nation is sovereign when it is free in its internal matters and there is no foreign interference. Its external policy is also guided by its own interests and not by any superpower. By declaring India sovereign, the makers of our Constitution have thrown away all the yokes of foreign dominance. It is no longer a colony of the British empire.

- (b) **Socialist:** The word 'socialist' was added to the Preamble later on to lay stress on the resolve of the nation to strive for socialism that envisages equitable distribution of National Income to all sections of the people. The 42nd Amendment lays down that the term 'Socialism' means that there is freedom from all forms of exploitation — social, political and economic. The state shall endeavour to bring about social and

economic equality and keeping this in view it shall try to prevent the concentration of wealth in a few hands. The gap between the rich and the poor will have to be narrowed down so that the fruit of independence is brought to every home and hearth. Likewise, the social disparities will have to be done away with so that all have equal opportunities to shape their future.

- (c) **Secular:** The word 'secular' was also inserted in the Preamble to the Constitution through the 42nd Amendment simply to reaffirm the faith of the nation in making the Indian body-politic above petty religious considerations while showing due respect to all religions. The 42nd Amendment lays down that the term 'Secular' means that all religions command equal respect and recognition from the State.

In India, no discrimination is ever made against any individual because of his religion. All the people in India, forming different groups, sects, communities, etc., are free to profess any religion of their choice, unless it proves detrimental to the peace, security and integrity of India. Every body is equal before law, and enjoys equal rights, no matter to which faith, caste, colour or creed he or she belongs.

- (d) **Democratic:** This word denotes that we have chosen democracy as our way of life and we will govern ourselves through democratic institutions. The word democratic, used in the Preamble, does not denote merely political democracy but also social and economic democracy. Political democracy has got no meaning unless it is accompanied by economic and social democracy.
- (e) **Republic:** In a republic, the Head of the State is an elected person. He/she has no hereditary rights. In India, the Head of the State is the President who is elected by the elected Members of Parliament and the State Assemblies for a term of 5 years. He is not a hereditary ruler like the King and Queen of England.

4. The preamble to the Constitution of India lays emphasis on Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. What is meant by the following?

- (a) Liberty (b) Equality (c) Fraternity.

Ans. (a) Liberty: The term 'liberty' means freedom — freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. Every citizen should be free to hold any belief and express his views freely. He can choose any religion of his own will and can worship in any way he likes. The Indians had already suffered a lot because of the 'Divide and Rule' policy of the British, so the Preamble to the Indian Constitution laid emphasis on the liberty of belief, faith and worship in order to ensure the unity of the nation.

(b) **Equality:** There can be no liberty without equality, so the Preamble to the Indian Constitution also lays emphasis on equality along with liberty. As such, our Constitution has done away with all inequalities based on sex, race, religion, caste, creed or colour. Now all are equal before law and enjoy equal opportunities for their advancement.

(c) **Fraternity:** Fraternity means brotherhood. Remember 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' was the slogan first raised by the French revolutionaries in France. The makers of the Indian Constitution were much influenced by this slogan, so they adopted it as the ultimate goal of the Indian Constitution. One may belong to any part of the country but he is an Indian first and a Punjabi or a Bengali afterwards.

5. With reference to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, answer the following :

- (a) What is the basis of its incorporation in the Constitution?
(b) What is the significance of 'We the People' in the Preamble?
(c) What are the objectives of our Constitution?

Ans. (a) It is the will of the people of India which is expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution. Constitution is a set of rules according to which a country runs. It defines the three organs of the government the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. It also explains the relations between the government and the citizens. It defines the powers of the Government very clearly so that it cannot misuse them.

(b) The words, "**We the people of India do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution**" have their own significance. They make it clear that sovereignty in India rests with her people who, through their own representatives in the Constituent Assembly, have framed their Constitution without any

any external interference, coercion or surveillance. If India is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, of which the British Queen or the King is the head, it does not undermine the sovereignty of India because all are equal partners in it and the British Queen or the King is only a symbolic head. Likewise, India's membership, either of the U.N.O. or of the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement), in no way puts any hindrance to the sovereignty of India.

Thus, from the above account, it becomes quite clear that it is the Will of the people of India which is expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Main Ideals or Objectives of the Indian Republic as set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution of India

(b) In the Preamble, the main objectives of the Indian Republic have been shown in capital letters, and the words **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** appear in bold capitals. That is because of their importance in the context of New India envisaged by the fathers of the Constitution. All these terms along with the terms 'JUSTICE, LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY and INTEGRITY' require further explanation.