

## MODULE 4

### POLITICAL SCIENCE

#### CH -1 POWER SHARING

##### Belgium

- Smaller than Haryana in Europe.
- Borders with France, Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg.
- It has a population of a little over 1 crore.
- Complex ethnic group- 59% Flemish speaking Dutch  
40% in Wallonia speak French (rich and powerful)  
1% speak German
- Brussels- 80% French and 20% Dutch speaking
- So, what happens within the country and within the capital is different.
- **Accommodation** was adopted by Belgium.
- Tensions between Dutch and French in 1950s and 1960s  
(Dutch speaking was majority in country but minority in capital)
- To maintain this balance numerous amendments were made between 1970 & 1993 and they amended constitution 4 times so that everyone could live within the nation.
- Number of Dutch and French- speaking ministers shall be equal in the central govt.
- Many powers of the central govt. have been given to state govt.
- Brussels has a separate govt. in which both the communities have equal representation.
- French speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the central govt.

**Community Government** is elected by people belonging to one language community- Dutch, French and German -speaking – it had power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

They avoided civil strife between 2 communities and possible division on linguistic lines.

When EU was formed, Brussels was chosen as headquarters.

Leaders realized that unity is possible only by respecting feelings and interests of others.

## **Sri Lanka**

- Sinhala speakers (Buddhists) form 74% and Tamil speakers (Hindus or Muslims) form 18%, 7% Christians (Both Tamil and Sinhala).
- Within Tamil there are Sri Lankan Tamils (13% mainly in north and east) and Indian Tamils (forefathers came from India during colonial period)
- Got independence in 1948
- **Majoritarianism:** 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.
- Sinhala set to get dominant position.
- 1956- Sinhalese as official language.
- Preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and govt. jobs.
- State started to protect Buddhism.
- Increased feeling of alienation amongst Srilankan Tamils felt constitution denied equal political rights, discriminated in jobs and ignored interests.
- Srilankan Tamils wanted Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- In 1980s demand for separate Tamil Eelam (state)
- This led to Civil War- killing communities and forcing people as refugees- it caused setback to economic, health and social life.

## **Why Power Sharing is Desirable?**

Prudential- It reduces conflict between social groups.

Prudential- Ensures stability of political order.

Prudential- Ensuring will of majority undermines unity of nation  
(it is oppressive for minority)

Moral- It is good for spirit of democracy.

Moral- People must have right to be consulted on how they should be governed.

Prudential- Based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses.

Prudential stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes while moral reasons emphasize the very act of power sharing as valuable.

NOTE: Refer story of Khalil's Dilemma where position allotted based on religion and not as in case of other democracies.

## **Forms of Power Sharing**

### **Horizontal Distribution of Power**

- Dispersal of power with emergence of democracy.
- Horizontal distribution of power between legislative, executive and judiciary- separation makes sure that none can exercise unlimited powers and each organ checks others.
- Checks and balances- although judges are appointed by the executive or laws made by the legislatures.

For example, Bombay High Court ordered the Maharashtra state govt. to immediately take action and improve living conditions for the 2,000 -odd children at seven children's houses in Mumbai.

**Federal Government-** Sharing of powers at different level- federal govt., provincial govt. (central and state govt.)

The same principle can be extended to levels of government lower than the State government, such as the municipality and panchayat. It can be called division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government **vertical division of power.**

For example:

Finance ministers of various states in Nigeria got together and demanded that federal govt. declare its sources of income and formula by which the revenue is distributed to various state govt.

**Community Government-** Powers must be shared amongst different social groups- religious and linguistic.

For example:

Community govt. in Belgium

In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration. Eg- reserved constituencies- fair share for minority.

For eg. – Govt. of Ontario state in Canada agreed to a land claim settlement with aboriginal (tribal) community.

Minister announced that the govt. will work with aboriginal people in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

**Coalition Government-** Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power- sharing of powers amongst political parties (as coalition govt.)

For example:

Russia's two political parties, Union of Right Forces and the Liberal Yabloko Movement United into a strong right -wing coalition.

They proposed to have a common list of candidates in the next parliamentary elections.

### **Useful Links:**

<http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?jess4=1-8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZr06ceO1jg&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K4ttymJ4i8&feature=youtu.be>

<https://byjus.com/cbse-notes/class-10-social-science-political-science-chapter-1-power-sharing/>

### **Self-Assessment Questions**

1. What is coalition government?
2. Define Majoritarianism.
3. What is the language spoken by the people residing in the Wallonia region?
4. What are the various forms of government?
5. What is the difference between Prudential and Moral power sharing basis?  
Why power sharing is desirable?