

## **CLASS 8          Social Science(civics)   Chapter 10 Law and Social Justice**

**Teacher :Harmeet Kaur Sodhi          Date: January 19, 2021 .**

1. What are the advantages which the foreign companies have in setting up production centers in India?

Answer: The advantages to foreign companies in setting up their production in India is as follows:

- Foreign companies come to India because of the cheap labour.
  - Wages that the companies pay to workers in foreign countries are far higher than what they have to pay to workers in India.
  - Low wages and longer hours of work.
  - Minimum additional expenses, such as for housing facilities for workers.
- Thus, companies can save costs and earn higher profits.

2. What do we mean when we speak of law enforcement? Who is responsible for enforcement? Why is enforcement so important?

Answer: Law enforcement means the implementation of law. Government is responsible for enforcement.

- Enforcement is important when the law seeks to protect the people belonging to the weaker section from those who are strong and powerful.
- It ensures that every worker gets fair wages. When workers are poor or powerless, the fear of losing future earnings or facing reprisals forces them to accept low wages.
- Employers use this as a tool to pay workers less than the fair wage. In such cases, it is crucial that the laws are enforced.

3. How can laws ensure that markets work in a manner that is fair? Give two examples to support your answer.

Answer: Laws ensure that markets work in a fair manner by protecting the people from unfair practices. The two examples are –

- Child Labour Prevention Act: This law states that no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engage in any other hazardous employment.
- Right against Exploitation: This law states that no one can be forced to work for low wages or under bondage.

4. What are the sources of environmental pollution in your area? Discuss with respect to (a) air; (b) water and (c) soil. What are the steps being taken to reduce pollution?

Answer: **The various sources of environment pollution in our area are as follows:**

(a) Smoke from factories and vehicles run by petrol or diesel are the main reasons behind air pollution.

(b) The main cause of water pollution is chemical fertilizers and garbage from factories, farms and houses.

(c) Soil is polluted by the pesticides and fertilisers that are used to grow crops or by garbage dumped by human or by factory waste.

**Steps taken to reduce pollution are:**

- Various laws have been enforced to keep a check on the environment pollution.
- Promotion of CNG vehicles to reduce air pollution.
- Strict actions against companies who violate environmental laws.

5. How was environment treated earlier? What has been the change in perception? Discuss.

Answer: The environment was treated as a 'free' entity and any industry or individual could pollute the environment without any restrictions. There were very few laws to protect and conserve the environment in India. Government also paid no attention to safeguarding the environment.

Now, there has been a change in perception. Government has introduced various laws to protect and conserve the environment such as Swachh Bahrat Abhiyan. The courts have given out a number of judgments, upholding the right to a healthy environment as intrinsic to the fundamental right to life. Various laws and procedures to check pollution and clean rivers have been formed. The government can also impose a fine on those who pollute our precious environment.

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### Extra Questions

Question1.

Why do we need a law on minimum wages?

Answer:

- The law of minimum wages ensures that workers are not underpaid, or are paid fairly. The minimum wages are revised upwards every few years .
- The law on minimum wages, which is meant to protect workers, there are also laws that protect the interests of producers and consumers in the market. These help ensure that the relations between these three parties – the worker, consumer and producer - are governed in a manner that is not exploitative.

Question2 .

Why do you think enforcement of safety laws is important?

Answer:

1. Only making laws is not enough. The government has to ensure that these laws are implemented. This means that the law must be enforced. Enforcement becomes even more important when the law seeks to protect the weak from the strong. For instance, to ensure that every worker gets fair wages, the government has to regularly inspect work sites and punish those who violate the law.
2. Through making, enforcing and upholding these laws, the government can control the activities of individuals or private companies so as to ensure social justice. Many of these laws have their basis in the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. For instance, the Right against Exploitation says that no one can be forced to work for low wages or under bondage.

### Question 3

Do you think victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy got justice? Discuss

Answer

No, the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy did not get justice. They are still waiting for it. They still fail to avail safe drinking water, healthcare facilities and jobs for the people poisoned by DC plant. Anderson, the UC Chairman who faces criminal charges, is not yet put behind the bars.

### Question4

Write a brief note on the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Answer: Union Carbide was an American Company which had a factory in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, which produced pesticides.

- At midnight on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1984, methyl-isocyanides – a highly poisonous gas – started leaking from the factory plant.
- Within three days, more than 8,000 people were dead. Hundreds of thousands were maimed.

