

CBSE Class –VI Social Science
NCERT Solutions
Political Science Chapter 5
Panchayati Raj

Question 1. What problem did the villagers in Hardas village face? What did they do to solve this problem?

Answer : The main problem which the people of the Hardas village faced was acute shortage of water. The hand pump water has gone well below the point up to which the ground has been drilled. They hardly get any water in the taps. Women have to go to the Suru river which is 3 k.m. away to get water. The villagers gathered together in the Gram Sabha meeting to find a solution of the problem. After long discussions, they came to a conclusion that they should find ways to conserve water like :

- Piping water from the river Suru and making an overhead tank in the village.
- Deepen the hand pumps and clean the wells for this season.
- Planting trees and construct check-dams and tanks etc.
- Finally, they came with the permanent solution of conserving water or watershed development.

Question 2. What, in your opinion, is the importance of the Gram Sabha? Do you think all members should attend Gram Sabha meetings? Why?

Answer: Gram Sabha elect the members of the Gram Panchayat. It can question Gram Panchayat and keep watch on their work. Local problems of the villagers can be discussed in the meeting and can recommend solutions to the problems and their needs.

Yes, it is important to all the members to attend the meeting of Gram Sabha. It secures the participation of the villagers in the commodity development. It is the forum where they can discuss the welfare programmes of the village.

Question 3. What is the link between a Gram Sabha and a Gram Panchayat?

Answer: The Gram Sabha is a meeting of all people (men and women) of the age of 18 years or above, who live in the area covered by the Panchayat. Anyone who is 18 years old or more

and live in the area covered, has a right to vote is a member of the Gram Sabha. Gram Sabha elect the members of the Gram Panchayat.

Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat are linked with each other through the meeting of Gram Sabha. The Panch and the Gram Panchayat is answerable to the members of Gram Sabha. Gram Sabha comes to know about the problems of the people and try to solve them.

Question 4. Take an example of any one task done by a Panchayat in your area/nearby rural area and find out the following:

- Why it was taken up.
- Where the money came from.
- Whether or not the work has been completed.

Answer (a) Task : A connecting road from village to the main road.

(b) Fund: Major part of the money came from the State Government and minor part of money came from Gram Panchayat fund.

(c) Yes, the work has been completed on time.

Question 5. What is the difference between a Gram Sabha and a Gram Panchayat?

Answer

Gram sabha	Gram panchayat
(i) Grama Sabha is a meeting of all adults who live in the area covered by a panchayat. Every adult man and woman in village who has attained the age of 18 years or above are the members of the Gram Sabha.	(i) A Gram Panchayat is formed in a village with an approximate population of about 300 people. The members of the Gram Sabha elect some representatives from themselves to form Gram Panchayat.
(ii) The number of members can be between 100 to 1000. The members and the body are permanent.	(ii) The number of members can be from 7 to 31. Ward members, panchs and panchayat president are the members of the Gram Panchayat.
	(iii) Out of total, 1/3rd seats are reserved for

(iii) There is no concept of reservation.

women and some for scheduled caste and schedule tribes.

Question 6. Read the following news item.

Nimon is a village on the Chauphula -Shirur Road. Like many others, this village has also been facing a severe water shortage for the last few months and villagers depend on tankers for all their needs. Bhagvan Mahadeo Lad (35) of this village was beaten with sticks, iron rods and axes by a group of seven men. The incident came to light when some villagers brought a badly injured Lad to hospital for treatment. In the FIR, recorded by the police Lad said that he was attacked when he insisted that the water in the tanker must be emptied in to the storage tank constructed as part of water supply scheme by Nimon Gram Panchayat so that there would be equal distribution of water. However, he alleged that the upper caste men were against this and told him that the tanker water was not meant for the lower castes.

Adapted from Indian Express, May 1, 2004.

a. Why was Bhagavan beaten ?

b. Do you think the above is a case of discrimination? Why?

Answer: a. There was acute water shortage in Nimon village and the villagers had to depend on tankers for their needs. So when the tanker came in the village, Bhagvan insisted that the water in the tanker must be emptied in to storage tanks constructed as part of the water supply programme by Nimon Gram Panchayat so that there would be equal distribution of water. But the upper caste men were against this and therefore they beat Bhagavan to suppress his demand.

b. This is a clear case of caste based discrimination. In this case, people from upper caste want to enjoy all the comforts. They also want to deny the lower caste people even the basic need of drinking water. It was not even emptied in tanks constructed by the Panchayat.

Question 7. Find out more about watershed development and how it benefits an area?

Answer: Watershed development programme is an initiative of the government. It is done by the Non-Government Organisation (NGOs). It is the conservation, recharging and judicious use

of water resources like underground water, rivers etc and lands within the watershed area

Benefits of watershed development are:

1. It helps in conservation of water by plantation, making bunds, canals etc.
2. It makes the land fertile and supports the growth of trees, plants and cultivation.
3. It helps in the preservation of water and its resources.
4. It prevents soil erosion.