

CBSE Class–VIII Social Science
NCERT SOLUTION
Political Science Chapter 9
Public Facilities

1. Why do you think there are so few cases of private water supply in the world?

Ans. There are very few cases of private water supply in the world because water is an essential amenity. Water supply is a public facility that every government must provide to all citizens of a State. In cases where water supply was placed in the hands of private companies, the prices of water rose, making it unaffordable to the masses. This resulted in riots, protests and violent demonstrations in countries like Bolivia. Hence, it has been deemed best that the government must handle water supply services.

2. Do you think water in Chennai is available and affordable by all? Discuss.

Ans. Water in Chennai is not available to and affordable by all. Availability of a good, regular water supply is proportionate to the level of income one earns, in the city. Municipal supply meets only about half the needs of the people of the city, on an average. Senior government officials in areas like Anna Nagar can get a whole water tanker arranged for themselves; most areas like Mylapore get water once in two days. In Madipakkam, people buy bottled water for drinking purposes but the situation is the worst in slums. In slums, water supply runs for barely an hour everyday from a single tap serving over thirty families for all their water needs. Apart from the availability of water, access to "safe" drinking water is only for the privileged who can afford bottled water and water purifiers. The poor are denied "sufficient and safe" drinking water.

It is essential that the government ensures that the city's residents are provided access to "sufficient and safe" drinking water for an opportunity to live a decent life.

3. How is the sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai affecting the local people? Do you think local people can object to such exploitation of ground water? Can the government do anything in this regard?

Ans. The sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai is affecting the local people in various ways:

(i) The water they are taking away is for irrigation of agriculture. Hence, the lack of water for irrigation affects agriculture.

(ii) This water is also for general supply and drinking purpose of the villagers.

(iii) As a result of the heavy exploitation of water, the ground water levels dropped drastically in these areas.

Yes, the local people can object to such heavy exploitation of ground water since it is a public facility or nature's gift on which everyone has equal right and so nobody can sell or take away exclusively. The use of ground water affects the poor farmers the most, so they can object to such heavy exploitation.

The Government needs to play a crucial role to find out a suitable alternative in this regard. Our Constitution recognizes many of the public facilities including access to safe drinking water, as being a part of the Right to Life. So, the Government must see that these rights are protected so that everyone can lead a decent life. The government can disallow private companies from selling water and can devise efficient ways to sell water at a low cost to the masses. It can also utilize methods such as "rainwater harvesting" to conserve water for future use.

4. Why are most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?

Ans. The services offered by these private hospitals and private schools are quite costly which the poor and even many middle-class people cannot afford. The infrastructure and quality of services offered by these hospitals and schools are definitely better. The number of rich and ambitious people who can afford the costs is greater in cities than in towns or rural areas. This is the reason why the private hospitals and private schools are mostly located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas.

9. Private educational institutions - schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less

important. What do you think would be the impact of this? Discuss.

Ans. The facilities and infrastructure in educational institutes run by the government are not up to the mark. Private educational institutions have better facilities and infrastructure; however, they levy very high fees, which only affluent people can afford. So quality education will be the right of only the rich.

If educational institutions run by the government are not up to the mark, the weaker sections of the society are deprived of quality education. The end result of this disparity will be that only the rich will get good education while the poor will be deprived of it. This will widen the economic and social disparity among the rich and poor. Consequently, the overall progress of the country will be hampered.