CBSE Class–VIII Social Science
NCERT SOLUTION
Political Science Chapter 10
Law and Social Justice

1. What are the advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India?

Ans : The advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India are:
(i) Cheap labour:- Wages that the companies pay to workers say in the U.S.A. are far higher than what they have to pay workers in India. For lower pay, foreign companies can get longer hours of work. Additional expenses such as housing facilities for workers are also fewer. Thus, companies can save costs and earn higher profits.
(ii) Cost cutting:- Cost cutting can also be done by other more dangerous means. Working conditions including lower safety measures are used as ways of cutting costs in India. Thus the foreign companies look for setting up production in India.

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

Ans : No, the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy are still fighting for justice.
At first, the company which owned the pesticide factory- Union Carbide (UC) refused to accept responsibility despite the wide-open, so many evidences of the tragedy. UC got away after paying a bare minimum compensation to the survivors of this tragedy. Even after 24 years, the survivors are still fighting for justice, for safe drinking water, for health-care facilities and jobs for those poisoned by UC. Their cases are still pending in numerous courts.

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

Ans : Law enforcement implies the government's responsibility as lawmaker and enforcer, to ensure obedience to its laws by everyone within the State that it governs. It is the responsibility of the government to ascertain that laws are not violated by anyone. Enforcement is important to maintain the democratic status of India; if foreign companies put up low unsafe working conditions, then this interferes with the Fundamental Right of the

Right to Life, of a worker. With more industries being set up both by local and foreign businesses in India, there is a greater need for stronger laws protecting workers' rights and producers and consumers. Hence, enforcement is very important today.

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

Ans : Laws can ensure that markets work in a fair manner. The frequently upgraded Minimum Wages Law ensures that workers are not exploited and over-worked by companies that hire them. Also, a law keeping checks on the quality of production makes sure that sub-standard goods do not enter the market.

5. Write a paragraph on the various roles of the government that you have read about in this unit.

Ans : The government plays many roles in any State:-

(i) The government provides public facilities like water supply, healthcare, education and sanitation and ensures that these amenities are not overtaken by private enterprises.
(ii) A major role of the government is to control the activities of private companies by making, enforcing and upholding laws so as to prevent unfair practices and ensure social justice. This means that the government has to make 'appropriate laws' and also has to enforce the laws. The government makes laws to protect workers in production factories- laws on minimum wages, controlling working conditions and safety measures. It also makes laws for markets that protect consumers against over-pricing and sub-standard products. The government also has a law against child labour.
(iii) The government punishes organizations that do not follow policies put in place to protect the environment against pollution.

6. 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 the pollution? Can you suggest some other measures?

Ans : There are many sources of environmental pollution in our area.

Air Pollution: By vehicles, industrial gases disposed through chimneys, smoke from red brick Bhattas.
Water Pollution: Various chemical discharges and other liquid effluents from some industries like tanneries, mills etc. The other sources are dry latrines and inefficient discharge of house wastes and sewerage into the rivers.
Soil Pollution: Plastic bags thrown carelessly, lack of proper arrangement of disposing household wastes, industrial effluents and ashes etc.

In recent years, there has been a consistent increase in awareness of the need for a clean environment. The courts in our country have come out with a number of strong orders on the environmental issues and accordingly, steps are also being taken to reduce pollution. Still, many more steps have to be implemented in this direction:
(i) Appropriate measures need to be taken by countries and local authorities to stop the misuse or overuse of resources. For example, in some countries, there are checks on the use of certain fuels such as coal, petrol, etc. The use of renewable energy such as wind power and solar power is encouraged.
(ii) Environmental degradation can be checked by conserving land, air and water resources. For this, we have to control the pollutants at the source. Industries can utilize efficient environment-friendly processes for production and encourage recycling of their used products. That way, pollution can be controlled at the source.
(iii) The government can ensure proper enforcement of laws and norms related to environmental issues such as - use of plastic bags, disposal of all type of wastes, reduction of harmful emissions from different industries, etc. It can also punish or fine those who do not follow the laws.

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

Ans : Earlier the environment was treated as a 'free' entity and any industry or even an individual could pollute the air and water without any restrictions. Whether it was our rivers, air, and groundwater - the environment was being polluted since there were no laws in this regard.

In the recent years, and particularly after the Bhopal gas tragedy, the issue of environmental

pollution came to the forefront. Now, the perception has completely changed and people have understood that the environment will be shared by people in future. There has been an increasing awareness among all that a clean environment is a public facility that cannot be destroyed merely for industrial development. The courts also gave a number of judgements upholding the right to a healthy environment as intrinsic to the Fundamental Right to life.

Nowadays, the government can punish or fine those who do not follow laws pertaining to the environment. The government also provides incentives to those who use renewable energy. The use of recycled products is encouraged. There are greater number of environmental campaigns and efforts to plant more trees, hence, there is greater participation by people in protecting the environment.

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