

CBSE Class – VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
Political Science Chapter 03
How the State Government Works

Question 1. Use the terms ‘constituency’ and ‘represent’ to explain who an MLA and how is the person elected?

Solution:

Every state in India has a Legislative Assembly and each state is divided into different areas or constituencies. From each constituency, the people elect one representative who then becomes a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). Each MLA belongs to a particular political party. MLAs are elected by the people and form the government, hence, they represent the people.

Question 2. How did some MLAs become Ministers? Explain.

Solution:

Some MLAs become ministers when their party wins more than half the number of constituencies in a state and thus, is in majority. The MLAs from the ruling party can elect an MLA from their party to become the Chief Minister of the state. The Chief Minister then selects other people as ministers. After the elections, it is the Governor of the state who appoints the Chief Minister and other ministers.

Question 3. Why should decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers be debated in the Legislative Assembly?

Solution:

Decisions taken by the Chief Minister and other ministers should be debated in the Legislative Assembly because these decisions have to be approved by the members of the Legislative Assembly. The MLAs are collectively responsible for the work that the government does. They also have to answer questions that are asked in the Legislative Assembly and convince people asking the questions that proper steps are being taken. This is because they have been elected by the people to form the government, hence, they are **responsible** and **accountable** to them.

For example, if there are issues pertaining to a change in a government policy, the issues need to be discussed in the Legislative Assembly before implementing the change. All members of the Legislative Assembly including the members of the opposition should be a part of the discussion, before any final decision is taken.

Question 4. What was the problem in Patalpuram? What discussion/action was taken by the following? Fill in the table.

Public meeting
Legislative Assembly
Press Conference
Chief minister

Solution:

The problem in Patalpuram was that there was a shortage of clean drinking water and lack of proper sanitation. In addition, people were dying of water-borne diseases and there was a shortage of proper medical facilities.

Public meeting - Demand for the MLA taking responsibility for the deteriorating healthcare and sanitation conditions.
Legislative Assembly - Discussion on the need for proper sanitation and healthcare facilities by the MLAs. Explanation by the MLAs on the steps taken by the government.
Press Conference - Explanation by the Minister on the steps taken to improve medical facilities and provide tankers which would supply clean drinking water.
Chief Minister - Promise of funds for the measures suggested by the Health Minister. Promise of proper and timely collection of garbage for better sanitation.

Question 6. What is the difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments?

Solution:

MLAs make and debate decisions in the assembly and pass laws. The government departments implement the laws made by the Legislative Assembly. The work done by the government departments has to be approved by the members of the Legislative Assembly.