

CHAPTER – 7

URBAN ADMINISTRATION

Q. 1 Why did the children go to Yasmin Khala's house?

Answer:

While playing cricket, Rehana broke the street light by playing a shot and hence, everybody ran to Rehana's house. Rehana's mom didn't know in detail about rural administration but told the kids that Municipal Corporation takes care of the replacing lights. She suggested that they should go to Yasmin Khala's house and ask her. Children ran to Yasmin Khala's house to know about the person who is responsible for the maintenance of street lights and to whom they should pay the money for the street light.

Q. 2 List four ways in which the work of the Municipal Corporation affects the life of a city-dweller.

Answer:

Four ways in which the work of the Municipal Corporation affects the life of a city-dweller:

- a. Municipal Corporation ensures that diseases do not break out in the city.
- b. It also runs schools, hospitals and dispensaries.
- c. Municipal Corporation makes gardens and maintains them.
- d. Municipal Corporation put signs on roads to educate people.
- e. Municipal Corporation plays a major role in keeping the streets clean and supply water.

Q. 3 Who is a Municipal Councillor?

Answer:

A city is divided into different wards and several ward or municipal councillors get elected. The complicated decisions that affect the entire city are taken by groups of councillors who form committees to decide and debate issues. The problems within a ward, then the local ward councilor can be contacted to resolve them.

Q. 4 What did Gangabai do and why?

Answer:

Gangabai was a brave lady who gathered women and protested against the Municipal Corporation, because the garbage was lying on the streets in her locality. She led the protest and shouted slogans outside the Ward Councillor's house. The Ward Councillor came out and asked what was wrong. Gangabai explained the situation to him and got a petition signed by all the adults of her locality on the Councillor's advice. She worked hard and did not stop until the sanitation service in the locality became more regular.

Q. 5 How does the Municipal Corporation earn the money to do its work?

Answer:

The Municipal Corporation collects money in different ways. A tax is a sum of money people pay to the government for the services the government provides. People pay several kinds of taxes to the government for example; People who own homes have to pay property tax as well as taxes for water and other services. There are taxes on education facilities and other amenities.

Q. 6 Discuss

In the two photographs you see different ways of collecting and disposing garbage.

- i) Which way do you think provides safety to the person disposing garbage?
- ii) What are the dangers of collecting garbage in the manner shown in the first photograph?
- iii) Why do you think that proper ways of disposing garbage are not available to those who work in municipalities?

Photo 1



Photo 2



Answer:

In my opinion, the way garbage is collected in the second photograph is appropriate. However, in the first picture the person collecting garbage is not doing it the right way and is exposed to several dangers as well. The garbage also is not collected properly.

Lack of knowledge and negligence are the reasons due to which proper ways of disposing garbage are not available to those who work in municipalities.

Q. 7 Several poor people in the city work as domestic servants as well as work for the Corporation, keeping the city clean. Yet the slums in which they live are quite filthy. This is because these slums seldom have any water and sanitation facilities. The reason often given by the Municipal Corporation is that the land in which the poor have set up their homes does not belong to them and that slum-dwellers do not pay taxes. However, people living in middle class neighbourhoods pay very little in taxes compared to the amount of money the corporation spends on them in setting up parks, street lighting facilities, regular garbage collection etc. Also as you read in this chapter, the property taxes collected by the Municipality makes up only 25-30 per cent of its money. Why do you think it is important that the Corporation should spend more money on slum localities? Why is it important that the Municipal Corporation provide the poor in the city with the same facilities that the rich get?

Answer:

Every city has slum areas where poor people live. The poor people often work as domestic helps in the rich houses, yet they are untidy and live in poor conditions. Therefore, Municipal Corporation should provide better sanitation facilities to these people, because they are exposed to rich households. They can transport diseases to the places they go to work, and can spread diseases to all sections of society.

Also, cleanliness is a healthy practice and if the poor are given healthy environment, their condition can be improved. Our constitution has provided equal rights and opportunities to all irrespective of their social status, hence they should be given good facilities to improve their social and financial wellbeing.