

## Popular Struggles and Movements

### SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

#### NCERT Questions

**Q.1. What is a Pressure Group ? Give examples.**

**Or**

**Discuss the aims of Pressure Groups. Give few examples.**

**Ans.** Pressure Groups are an organised aggregate, which seek to influence the government's decision making without attempting to place their members in formal governmental capacities.

- (i) Pressure groups are extra constitutional and use pressure tactics including extra-constitutional measures. Like lobbying, strikes, dharnas, rallies, demonstrations etc. Hence sometimes these may even be unconstitutional.
- (ii) Pressure groups try to achieve their goals through direct association, conscious planning and organisation.
- (iii) Trade unions and Business groups like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (F.I.C.C.I.).
- (iv) Narmada Bachao Andolan. Movement for Right to Information, Environmental Movement, Kissan Sabha Movement are the examples of the Pressure groups in India.

These Pressure Groups have a loose organisation and their decision making is more informal and flexible.

(Any three)

**Q.2. Distinguish between Interest Groups and Movements i.e., Pressure Groups.**

**Ans.** Both Interest and Pressure Groups are "organised" thus they can be distinguished from acts of participation by individuals. differences/Disimilarities :

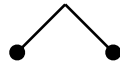
Interest Group	Pressure Group
(i) Interest Groups protect a specific interest but they do not use pressure, tactics and extra constitutional means to influence and coerce the Government.	(i) Whereas, Pressure Groups protect the common interest and they use pressure tactics and extra constitutional means to influence and coerce the Government.
(ii) The Interest Groups are the neutral label and their decisions are very much formal.	(ii) But, Pressure Groups have a loose organisation. Their decision making is more flexible and informal.

#### Common characteristics or similarities :

- (i) Both Interest and Pressure Groups work for collective interests of their members.
- (ii) Further these groups do not aspire to become the Government.
- (iii) They seek to influence it and change its direction and policy in a particular manner.

**Q.3. Describe the forms of relationship between Pressure Groups and Political Parties.**

**Ans.** The relationship between pressure groups and political parties can take different forms like :



Direct ways   Indirect Ways

- (i) Pressure groups formed by Political Parties : In some instances the pressure groups are either formed or led by the leaders of political parties or act as extended arms of political parties. For example, most trade unions and students organisations in India are either established by or affiliated to one or the other major political party.
- (ii) Political parties evolve from Pressure Groups : Sometimes political parties grow out of movements or pressure groups. For example, when the Assam movement led by students against the 'foreigners' came to an end, it led to the formation of the Assam Gana Parishad.

The roots of parties like the DMK and the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu can be traced to a long drawn social reform movement during the 1930s and 1940s.

**Indirect relations :**

- (i) Pressure Groups and Political Parties opposed to each other : in most cases the relationship between parties and interest or pressure groups is not so direct. They often take positions that are opposed to each other.

**Q.4. What is the difference between a Pressure Group and a Political Party ?**

**Ans.** There are many differences between pressure groups and political parties.

Pressure Groups	Political Parties
(i) Pressure Groups have specific interest and work for the collective interests of its membership only.	(i) While political parties have a broad based programme that covers many aspects of national life influence and coerce the Government.
(ii) Membership of pressure groups is limited and that too of a particular kind, i.e., a student's pressure group will consist only of students and not of traders, etc.	(ii) On the other hand, membership of the parties is very broad based and it is a wide coalition of diverse members and they have mass memberships.
(iii) Pressure groups resort to agitation a politics	(iii) Whereas political parties use only

In this way, Political parties are better and more widely organised than pressure groups but pressure group's aim is to direct policy and laws in their favour.

### **Additional Questions**

**Q.5. State two ways of participating in a struggle.**

**Ans.** Two different ways of participating in a struggle are :

- Direct participation → In this people try to influence the decisions in a democracy by directly participating in active politics.
- Indirect participation → In this people try to voice their interests by forming organisations and influence the government policies without sharing the political power i.e. in a very indirect manner.

**Q.6. List out the main characteristics of popular struggle of Nepal and Bolivia which took place for democracy.**

**Ans.** The two popular movements of Nepal and Bolivia involved mass mobilisation and public demonstration of mass support clinched the dispute. Both these struggles showed how the democracy evolved all over the world. Like :

- (i) Democracy Evolved through popular Struggles : Democracy evolves through popular struggles. It is possible that some significant decision may take place through consensus and may not involve any conflict at all These movement come when the country is going through
  - transition to democracy,
  - expansion of democracy,
  - deepening of democracy.
- (ii) Democratic conflict and mobilisation : Democratic conflict is resolved through mass mobilisation. Sometimes it is possible that the conflict is resolved by using the existing institutions like the Parliament or the judiciary. But when there is a deep dispute very often these institution themselves get involved in the dispute.
- (iii) Democracy and Political Organisation : These conflicts and mobilisations are based on new political organisations. But the spontaneous public participation becomes effective with the help of organised politics like political parties, pressure groups and movements.

**Q.7. Give a comparative analysis of the protest movement in Nepal and Bolivia.**

**Ans.** The stories of popular struggles of Nepal and Bolivia are to the very extent different from each other.

- (i) The movement of Nepal was to "establish Democracy" while the struggle in Bolivia involved claims on an elected democratic government.
- (ii) The popular struggle in Bolivia was about one specific policy, while the struggle of Nepal was about the foundations of the country's politics.
- (iii) Both these struggles were successful but their impact was at different levels.

**Some common elements :**

Despite these differences, both the stories share some elements which are relevant to the study of the past and future of democracies.

- (i) Both these are instances of Political complicit that led to popular struggles.
- (ii) In both cases the struggle involved mass mobilisation Public demonstrations of mass support clinched the dispute.
- (iii) Finally both instances involved critical role of political organisations.

**Q.8. How the deep disputes are resolved in the Democracy ?**

**Ans.** The "Deep dispute of democracy" arises when the existing institutions like Parliament and judiciary themselves get involved in the dispute. For this dispute the resolution has to come from outside, from the people, i.e., political organisation's and spontaneous public participation.

But the spontaneous public participation becomes effective with the help of organised politics. These include political parties, pressure groups and movement groups.

**Q.9. Give a comparative analysis of Sectional Interest Groups and Public Interest Groups.**

**Ans.** Interest groups are classified into two on the basis of the nature of its functions like :

- (i) Sectional interest groups, (ii) Public interest groups.

We can compare the nature and functions of these groups in the following ways :

<b>Sectional Interest Groups</b>	<b>Public Interest Groups</b>
(i) Sectional interest groups seek to promote the interests of a particular section or group of society.	(i) While, public interest groups seek to promote collective rather than selective good.
(ii) They are sectional groups because they represent the section of society.	(ii) But, they are public groups because they represent the general people of the society.
(iii) Sectional interest groups principal concern is the betterment and well being of their members not society in general.	(iii) Whereas, the aim of public interest group is to help groups other than their own members.

**Q.10. Write a note on Movement Groups.**

**Ans.** Movement groups are the groups involved with movements and have varied nature. Most of the Movement groups are issue specific movements that seek to achieve a single objective within a limited time frame. They are known as "single issue movement".

Other movement groups are general or generic movements that seek to achieve a broad goal in the very long term. Hence, movement groups are classified into two : (i) Single issue movements, (ii) Long term movements.

- The Nepalese Movement for Democracy arose with the specific objective of reversing the king's orders that led to suspension of democracy. In India "Narmada Bachao Andolan" is a good example of this kind of movement.
- The single-issue movements can be contrasted with movements that are long term and involve more than one issue. The Environmental Movement and the "Women's Movement" are examples of such movements. There is no single organisation that controls or guides such movements.

**Q.11. Is the influence of mobilisation and movement groups healthy ?**

**Ans.** Actually, it may initially appear that the influence of mobilisation and movement groups is not healthy for Democracy as they tend to promote the interest of one section. A democracy must look after the interest of all, not just of one section.

- ⇒ Also, these groups wield power without responsibility like political parties have to face the people in elections, but these groups are not accountable to the people.
- ⇒ Pressure groups and movements may not get their funds and support from the people. Sometimes, pressure groups with small public support but lots of money can hijack public discussion in favour of their narrow agenda.
- ⇒ On balance, however pressure groups and movements have deepened democracy. Putting pressure on the rulers is not an unhealthy activity in a democracy as long as everyone gets this opportunity.

In this way, Public interest groups and movements perform a useful role of countering this undue influence and reminding the government of the needs and concerns of ordinary citizens.