

**PANCHAYATI RAJ****Textbook Intext Questions****Page No. 44****1 What is a Gram Sabha?**

**Ans.** The Gram Sabha is a meeting of all adults above 18 years of age, who live in a area covered by the Panchayat. Gram-panchayat could be a village or a few villages. Also, anyone who is 18 years old or above and has the right to vote can be the member of the Gram Sabha.

**2. In the meeting of the Gram Sabha so far what are the problems that are being discussed? What sort of solutions are being suggested?**

**Ans.** The problems discussed in the meeting of the Gram Sabha are:

- (i) Construction and maintenance of village roads and waterways, constructions of culverts on them and planting of trees, maintenance and repair of public wells, tanks and pits.
- (ii) Cleanliness of village, looking after the health and sanitation, providing education, maintaining, buying and selling village property are various problems which are solved by Panchayat.
- (iii) Panchayat can report the matter to the higher authorities, like Lekhpal, Patwari, etc.
- (iv) Management of dispensaries, village markers. Those are voluntary work which are done by Village Panchayat. Some other voluntary works are veterinary hospitals for the treatment of village cattle, organizing village sports.

The various solutions were offered in the meeting of the Gram Sabha are:

- (i) Proper maintenance of hand pumps.
- (ii) Arrangement of some medicines on personnel level at the house of a member of village.

**Page No. 45****1. Was there a problem with the BPL list that the Gram Sabha was finalising? What was this problem?**

**Ans.** Yes, there was a problem with the BPL (Below the Poverty Line) list that the Gram Sabha was finalising. The problem was that:

Natwar who had just bought a colour T.V. and his son had sent him a new motorcycle, had been included in the BPL list.

Birju's name was also included in the BPL list although he had so much land.

On the other hand, Om Prakash was a landless labourer and who could barely make both ends meet was not included in the BPL list. The other villagers wanted his name to be included in the list.

**2. Why do you think Soorajmal kept quiet even though Saroj asked him to speak?**

**Ans.** Soorajmal kept quiet even though Saroj asked him to speak because they were afraid of Amirchand's power. Amirchand was the earlier zamindar of the village and still has control over a lot of land.

**3. Have you seen any similar incidents-when people are unable to speak for themselves? Why do you think that happened and what prevented the person from speaking?**

**Ans.** Do yourself with the help of story given in chapter.

**4. How can the Gram Sabha prevent the Panchayat from doing what it likes?**

**Ans.** The Gram Sabha is a key factor in making the Gram Panchayat play its role and be responsible. It is the place where all plans for the work of the Gram Panchayat are placed before the people. The Gram Sabha prevents the Panchayat from doing wrong things like misusing money or favouring certain people. It plays an important role in keeping an eye on the elected representatives and in making them responsible to the persons who elected them.

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**1. What decisions were taken by the Gram panchayat?**

**Ans.** When the Hardas Gram Panchayat held a meeting, this point was brought up again by some of the members (Panchs). This meeting was attended by the Sarpanch, Ward Members (Panchs) and the Secretary. Gram Panchayat members first discussed the suggestion to deepen two handpumps and clean one well, so that the village would not go without water. The Sarpanch (Panchayat President) suggested that since the Panchayat had received some money for maintenance of handpumps, this could be used for completing this work. The members agreed and the secretary recorded their decision.

**2. Do you think it was necessary for them to take these decisions? Why?**

**Ans.** Yes, because the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat work for the welfare of the people of the village. They have to look after the problems of the villagers and also solve them as per importance and requirement.

**3. From the above description, write down one question that people could ask of the Panchayat in the next Gram Sabha meeting.**

**Ans.** In the next Gram Sabha meeting, the members would certainly question and asked explanations about the watershed programme. It was decided that the Gram Panchayat would approach the Block Development Officer and get more information about the scheme.

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**1. Ask you teacher to invite any of the elected persons such as the Panch, Sarpanch (Panchayat President) or member of the Janpad or Zila Panchayat and interview them on their work and the projects undertaken by them.**

**Ans.** Do with the help of your subject teacher.

## Textbook Questions

**1. What problem did the villagers in Hardas village face? What did they do to solve this problem?**

**Ans.** The main problem which the people of the Hardas village faced was storage of water. The hand pump water has gone well below the point up to which the ground has been drilled. We hardly get any water in the taps. Women have to go to the Sum River which is 3 k.m. away to get water. One of the members suggests piping water from the Suru and making an overhead tank in the village to increase the supply. But the others think that this will be expensive. Its better, they feel, to deepen the hand pumps and clean the wells for this season. Tijia says, "This is not enough. We need to do something more permanent as groundwater levels seem to be going down every year. We're using more water than is seeping into the ground." Another member, Anwar then tells everyone that he has seen ways of conserving water and recharging (refilling) it in a village in Maharashtra where he'd once gone to visit his brother. It was called watershed development and he had heard that the government gave money for this work. In this brother's village people had planted trees, constructed check- dams and tanks. Everyone thought this was an interesting idea and the Gram Panchayat was asked to find out about it in detail.

**2. What, in your opinion, is the importance of the Gram Sabha? Do you think all members should attend Gram Sabha meetings? Why?**

**Ans.** The Gram Sabha help the villagers in solving their basic problems and fulfilling their needs. Yes, it is important to all the members to attend the meeting of Gram Sabha. It secures the participation of the villagers in the commodity development.

**3. What is the link between a Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat?**

**Ans.** The Gram Sabha is a meeting of all people (men and women) of the age of 18 years or above, who live in the area covered by the Panchayat. Anyone who is 18 years old or more and live in the area covered, has a right to vote is a member of the Gram Sabha. Gram. Sabha and Gram Panchayat are linked with each other through the meeting of Gram Sabha. Gram Panchayat comes to know about the problems of the people and try to solve them.

**4. Take an example of any one task done by a Panchayat in your area/nearby rural area and find out the following:**

**(a) Why it was taken up?**

**(b) Where the money came from?**

**(c) Whether or not the work has been completed?**

**Ans.** (a) Task: A connecting road from village to the main road.  
(b) Fund: The money came from Gram Panchayat fund.  
(c) Yes, the work has been completed.

**5. What is the difference between a Gram Sabha and a Gram Panchayat?**

Gram Sabha	Gram Panchayat
(i) Every adult man and woman in village who has attained the age of 18 years or above; are the members of the Gram Sabha.	(i) The members of the Gram Sabha elect some representatives from themselves to form Gram Panchayat.
(ii) The number of members can be between 100 to 1000.	(ii) The number of members can be from 7 to 31.
(iii) There is no concept of reservation.	(iii) Out of total, 1/3rd seats are reserved for

	women and some for scheduled castes and schedule tribes.
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**Q.6. Read the following news item.**

*Nimone is a village on the Chauphula-Shirur Road. Like many others, this village has also been facing a severe water shortage, or the last few months and villagers depend on tankers for all their needs. Bhagvan Mahadeo Lad (35) of this village was beaten with sticks, iron rods and axes by a group of seven men. The incident came to light when some villagers brought a badly injured Lad to hospital for treatment. In the FIR recorded by the police Lad said that he was attacked when he insisted that the water in the tanker must be emptied into the storage tanks constructed as part of the water supply scheme by Nimone Gram Panchayat so that there would be equal distribution of water. However, he alleged that the upper caste men were against this and told him that the tanker water was not meant for the lower castes.*

Adapted from Indian Express, May 1, 2004

(a) Why was Bhagvan beaten?

(b) Do you think that the above is a case of discrimination? Why?

**Ans.** (a) Bhagvan Mahadeo Lal was beaten because he wanted the water tanker should be -emptied into storage tank built by the Nimone Gram Panchayat, so that there could be equal distribution of water. But some of the people of upper class did not tolerate it. So, he was beaten by them.

(b) Yes, this is a case of discrimination because from the above news we came to know that the people of upper castes were against the equal distribution of water. The people of upper cast think that the water in tanker was only for them and not for the lower caste people.

**7. Find out more about watershed development and how it benefits an area?**

**Ans.** The ways of conserving water and refilling it by cyclic and anticyclic process is situated in a village in Maharashtra state. This process is known as water-shed development process. Generally, the state government provided the fund for starting a water-shed process.

For water conserving and refilling, people planted trees, constructed dam and tanks which increase die water table.