

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What role did the 'Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan' play in the formation of Right to Information Act?

Ans. The Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in Rajasthan demanded the records of famine relief work, accounts of labourers, copies of bills and names of people that have been paid wages on the construction of small dams, dispensaries, schools and community centres. The movement was a success as they forced an amendment in the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act to permit the public to procure certified copies of documents held by the Panchayats. In 1996, MKSS formed National Council of People's Right to information in Delhi to raise RTI to the status of a national campaign.

Q.2. Describe any two issues which made the Anti-Arrack Movement as a 'women's movement'.

[CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. (i) The Anti-Arrack movement had touched upon larger social, economic and political issues of the region that affected women's lives.

(ii) A close nexus between crime and politics was established around the business of arrack.

(iii) Groups of local women tried to address these complex issues in their agitation against arrack. Their movement for the first time provided a platform to discuss private issues of domestic violence.

(iv) They ran a campaign against the system of dowry and demanded personal and property laws based on the norms of gender equality.

(Any two points)

Q.3. Give a brief account of the role of women in various mass movements and agitations.

Ans. The role of women in various mass movement and agitations were:

(i) The Chipko Movement was a cause as the villagers protested against the allotment of forest land to a company by the government. The women began to embrace the trees of the forest to prevent loggers from cutting them.

(ii) The movement 'Anti-arrack' grew against the rise of alcoholism and the negative impact on families and village economy by it. The women began to combat alcohol mafia and pressurized the government to take action against them.

Q.4. Trace the reasons behind the origin of Dalit Panthers.

[CBSE Delhi 2013]

Ans. The Dalit youth formed a militant organisation group 'Dalit Panther' in 1972 in Maharashtra. Their main objective became the implementation of reservations and other such policies regarding social justice. They resorted to mass action to demand rights of Dalits. The activities of Dalit Panthers revolved around combating the increase in atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the State. The ideological agenda of the Panthers was to destroy the caste system and to build an organisation of all oppressed sections like the landless poor peasants, urban industrial workers and Dalits.

Q.5. What issues did the Dalit panthers address?

[NCERT]

Ans. The main objective of the panthers was to end the caste system and to build an organisation of all oppressed sections such as the urban industrial workers, landless poor peasants and the Dalits. The movement provided a platform for Dalit educated youth to use their inspiration as protest activity. Many Dalit writers wrote several autobiographies and other literary works as protest against the brutalities of the caste system. The Dalit panthers also initiated an electoral compromise in the post-emergency period, which divided the organisation and soon led to its decline.

Q.6. Describe the characteristics of Non-party political formations.

[CBSE Sample Paper]

Ans. The organisations have a voluntary nature. These voluntary organisations chose to remain outside party politics. They did not contest elections at the local or regional level and they did not support any political party directly. These organisations were called 'non-party political formations'. With time, many of these organisations began to be funded by external agencies including international agencies. The participation of local initiatives weakened as a result of availability of external funds. The formations also function as pressure groups on the government and represent the views and demand of particular section of society.