

CHAPTER – 10

Law and Social Justice

❖ EXERCISES

Question – 1

Talk to two workers (for example, construction workers, farm worker, factory workers at any shop) to find out if they are receiving the minimum wages laid down by law.

Answer:

(a) Firstly, we talk about the farm workers who do not getting minimum wages in the villages.

(b) Secondly, we talk about women workers who do not getting equal wages as compared to men which is not permitted by law.

Question 2:

What are the advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India?

Answer:

The advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India are following:

(a) Foreign companies easily get cheap labours in India.

(b) We know that after China, India is the second largest populated country in the world and there is a very vast internal market of foreign goods available in India.

(c) India is linked to many countries and its geographical conditions are also favourable. It helps companies to export their goods to major markets of the world.

Question 3:

Do you think the victims of the Bhopal Gas tragedy got justice? Discuss.

Answer:

Bhopal gas tragedy happens 28 years ago on December 2, 1984 but the victims of that tragedy have not get justice yet. Many workers in today's date are sick to work. They have many problems related to their respiratory system or other disorders. After that tragedy instead of providing safety to the workers there are still many factories who are running without proper safety measures.

Question 4:

What do we mean when we speak of law enforcement? Who is responsible for enforcement? Why is enforcement so important?

Answer:

Law enforcement mainly means the law maker and enforcer means the government ensures that safety laws are duly implemented.

The government of our country is responsible for the enforcement of law.

It is very important because without its enforcement the framing of various laws is meaningless. Safety laws were not enforced that led to Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

Question 5:

How can laws ensure that markets work in a manner that is fair? Give two examples to support your answer.

Answer:

Laws can ensure that market is working in a fair manner. Laws also ensure that business men use ISI marked balance, weights or measurements. There are many products like the medicines and eatable items should have MRP and expiry date, marked on them.

Laws are very important as markets of our country are regulated through them also these laws help in maintain the relation between workers, consumers and producers.

Question 7:

Imagine yourself to be a worker working in a chemical factory, which has received orders from the government to move to a different site 100 km away from the present location. Write about how your life would change. Read out the response in the classroom.

Answer:

- (a) First of all I have to shift my family to a safe place.
- (b) Secondly, it is necessary to give 'Change of address' notice for my bank and other legal documents.

(c) Thirdly, education of children is also very important so I will change their school as if they will not get right education their studies and their future will suffer.

Question 8:

What are the sources of environmental pollution in your area? Discuss with respect to: (a) air (b) water and (c) soil. What are the steps being taken to reduce the pollution? Can you suggest some other measures?

Answer:

The various sources of environment pollution in our area are as follow:

(a) Smoke of factories is the main reason due to which air gets polluted.

(b) Smoke of petrol and diesel vehicles is also another source due to which air gets polluted.

(c) The main cause of water pollution is the dirt, chemical, fertilizers and garbage from factories, farms and houses.

(d) Not only this human wastes and dirt from factories also pollute the soil.

Some of the steps that are being taken to reduce pollution are as follows:

(a) There are various laws that are being made to check the environment pollution.

(b) Government has promoted the CNG vehicles which do not cause any pollution.

(c) Those companies who violates environment laws there are several actions that are being taken against them.

Laws and rules cannot make our environment clean. Every individual of the society have to take responsibility to clean his/her environment and should take voluntary actions to minimize pollution.

Question 9:

How was environment treated earlier? What has been the change in perception? Discuss.

Answer:

If we look few years back than our environment was considered a free entity which anyone could spoil. In earlier times there was no rule or law to protect our environment. People at that time were not aware and there were no actions taken by the government against those who spoil the environment.

After the Bhopal Gas Tragedy there were many issues that came forefront. Several laws have been introduced by the government of our country to protect our environment. After this court has declared that government is responsible for checking the pollution and also to punish those people who violates the environment.

Question 10:

What do you think the famous cartoons R.K Laxman is trying to convey in this cartoon? How does it relate to the 2006 law that you read? It is really cruelburding kids like this. I had to hire that boy help my son.

Answer:



a) According to me from the picture the cartoonist is trying to display the problem of child labour.

b) In 2006 there is an amendment in the constitution, a law has been formed known as the 'Child labour and Prevention Act'. This law bans working of children in the factories, houses, shops etc. who are below 14 years of age.

Question 11:

You have read about the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and on-going struggle. Students from countries across the world have come together to support this struggle for justice. From protest marches to awareness campaigns, you can read about their activities on the website www.studentsforbhopal.com. The website also has resources such as photos, poster, documents, victims' statements etc..

Use this and other sources to make a wallpaper/exhibition on the Bhopal tragedy for your classroom. Invite the whole school to see and talk about it.

Answer:

This is a classroom activity and students have to do it by their own.

❖ Intext Question Pg-121

Question 1:

Why do we need a law on minimum wages? Find out:

- (a) What is the minimum wage for a construction worker in your state?
- (b) Do you think the minimum wage for a construction worker is adequate, low or high?
- (c) Who sets the minimum wages?

Answer:

We need a law on minimum wages because of the following reasons:

- (i) To protect the interest of the workers.
- (ii) To ensure fairness and social justice.
- (a) The minimum wage for a construction worker in my state is 400 rupees per day.
- (b) The minimum wage for these workers is still low. There wage should be increased a little more as in 400 rupees they cannot fulfill the needs of their families.
- (c) There is an Indian labour law that sets the minimum wages that must be paid to skilled and unskilled labours.

❖ Intext Question Pg-127

Question 1:

Why do you think enforcement of safety laws is important in any factory?

Answer:

Enforcement of safety laws is important in any factor because of the following reasons:

- (a) Factory work includes use of several machines and it is important that proper care is taken of these machines so that the workers security is guaranteed.
- (b) Factories are the areas where there are chances of worker exploitation. So for this factory safety laws are important.

Question 2:

Can you point to a few other situations where laws (or rules) exist but people do not follow them because of poor enforcement? (For example, over-speeding by motorists). What are the problems in enforcement?

Answer:

There are various rules in our country which just because of the poor enforcement aren't followed by the citizens. Some of these rules are as follows:

- (a) Driving with license is compulsory but people hardly do so.
- (b) Driving while drinking is not allowed but no one follows.

(c) Driving with helmet is compulsory but people barely do that.

Question 3:

Can you suggest some ways in which enforcement can be improved?

Answer:

Some ways in which enforcement can be improved are:

- (a) If the nature of policies and policy makers become strict and loyal.
- (b) If the information becomes basic and the flow of information becomes transparent.
- (c) If the communication gaps diminish.

❖ Intext Question Pg-128

Question 1:

A 'clean environment is a public facility.' Can you explain this statement?

Answer:

From the above statement we understand that the environment should be healthy and clean. This can be done creating more and more awareness among the people. Those who pollute the environment a fine should be imposed on them. Also workers of the factories should be safeguard to maintain their interest.

Question 2:

Why do we need new laws?

Answer:

We need new laws because of the following reasons:

- (a) To prevent chaos in the society.
- (b) To prevent minority groups from any kind of exploitation by the majority.
- (c) To protect the interest of community at large.
- (d) To ensure peace and harmony in the society.

Question 3:

Why are companies and contractors able to violate environmental laws?

Answer:

Private companies and contractors in order to earn to more profit do unfair practices such as paying low wages to workers, employing children to work, ignoring the working conditions etc. They violate the environmental laws as for them profit is more important than the lives of workers.

❖ Intext Question Pg-129**Question 1:**

Do you think everyone got justice in the case cited above?

Answer:

In my opinion everyone did not get justice in the case because though the court solved one problem of saving the environment it gave rise to several other issues like workers working there lost their jobs and the places where the factories got relocated started getting polluted in the same way.

Question 2:

Can you think of other ways in which the environment can be protected? Discuss in class.

Answer:

The environment can be protected in following ways:

- (a) We must use low watt light bulbs as they not only last longer but also save energy.
- (b) Driving is one of the biggest cause of pollution, hence use cycle or walk for shorter distance and prefer public transport.
- (c) We must follow the recommended amount of detergent for washing.
- (d) Find ways of recovering the rain water.