

# 3

## Government

### Lesson Plan

#### Contents

- ▶ An overview of what government is and how it functions
- ▶ Understanding the different forms of government and its purpose

#### Objectives

- ▶ To understand government and its forms and purposes
- ▶ To learn about how it comes to power, how it finds the resources to function and what exactly it does
- ▶ To know about the organs of government and their tasks
- ▶ To appreciate the framework of the government at different levels

#### Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

#### Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the need for government – decisions and rules to structure and hold an orderly society together – welfare of people.
- ▶ Explain the significance what government does: Tell students to imagine a state of anarchy with no government! Everything from housing, water, electricity and clearance of garbage to running schools, hospitals, public transport, trade, commerce and industry and the management of traffic on the road and the safety of individuals and public property involves government.
- ▶ Encourage projects: student groups may take up one area of city life and find out what the government does in that sector.

#### Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., stopping to examine and explain the data in the pictures and maps.

- ▶ Particularly focus on what is government; why we need it; organs and functions of government; different forms of government; how it comes into power.

### **What is Government?**

- ▶ From Latin root–gubernare–to steer a ship or guide it.
- ▶ It is a political system by which society is governed.
- ▶ Makes decisions and laws to govern and ensure people’s welfare.

### **Organs of Government**

- ▶ Legislature–the body that makes the laws
- ▶ Executive–the body that implements the laws
- ▶ Judiciary–the body that ensures that the laws are followed by the government and by the people

### **Functions of a Government**

- ▶ Takes care of people by–
  - (i) providing education, health services, eradicating diseases
  - (ii) constructing roads, dams, clean water, electricity, sewage and garbage disposal, etc.
  - (iii) frames laws, maintains law and order, punishing violators
  - (iv) maintains relations with other countries
  - (v) manages natural disasters
- ▶ Not mentioned in text–it arranges defence of the country’s boundaries
- ▶ Three levels–Central Government [national security, defence, foreign affairs, etc.], State Governments [education, electricity and water supply, etc. and Local Government in towns and villages [town and village administration]

### **Importance of Laws**

- ▶ Ensuring laws made are followed–punish violators
- ▶ People can also go to court to seek justice if laws violated

### **Sources of Money**

- ▶ Taxes like income tax, sales tax, etc.–used for providing utilities - electricity, roads, parks, post offices, etc.

### **Forms of Government**

- ▶ Democratic: Representatives elected by citizens–can be changed at next election
- ▶ Monarchical: All power lies with the Monarch, king or queen–not accountable to people–followed by successor
- ▶ Dictatorial: Authoritarian–one person dictates decisions based on his/her own wishes
- ▶ Parliamentary: Union of powers where executive derives power from legislature; if presidential form of government- separation of powers. Party support–from one or more parties–majority in legislature controls the executive

- ▶ Federal: Power divided and exercised by smaller units, each with its own government, supervised by Centre—two levels.
- ▶ Unitary: Entire territory governed from one centre of power

### Franchise

- ▶ Election—right to vote—conditions for citizens to vote—if citizens not satisfied, replace at next election - Article 21 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948—it is a human right

### Democracy in India

- ▶ Citizens—political freedom to express opinion on government policies—representatives chosen through elections.

## Assessment Corner

### Oral Assignment

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm right answers.  
The students may write down the answers if they like.

### Written Assignment

- B–E. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask students to write the answers on their own. Then teacher can announce the correct answers and ask partners to cross check them.  
In either case, the answers can be written as homework and teacher can check in class.

### Think Tank

- G. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the questions in class and let students write the answers to F and G as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.