

liberal-Democracy.

Democracy. Explain the features of

Ans. Of all political systems, the liberal democracy is a new ideology to fit the needs of a new world. It is an idea committed to freedom as a method and policy of Government, as an organising principle in society, and a way of life for individual and community. Liberal democracy signifies a political system in which the power lies with the people and its utilisation by their chosen representatives who are responsible to them for the policies and actions of the Government. In short, the liberal democracy is a qualified democracy based on Capitalism. Its basic norms are :

(a) an elected and responsible Government based on the consent of the people.

(b) freedom of thinking and speaking,

(c) rule by majority and voice of the minority should not be ignored.

In the light of above, we may point out the fundamental features of the liberal democratic system.

First, to-day, the liberal democratic system does not believe in the mystic notion of the divinity of the State. Rather, the exponents of liberal democracy firmly assert that the State is a means for the realisation of the greatest good of the largest number of people. The model contributes an incidental element that the authority of the State (Government) is limited by the fundamental laws and conventions of the land.

Secondly, the liberal democratic system is marked by the multiplicity of political parties. *Alan Ball* says that there is more than one political party competing for political power. Political parties contain diverse interests and provide channels of communication within a socio-political order to the development of a liberal democratic nation-State. Besides, the opposition is the life-breadth of liberal democracy. There should be strong and well organised opposition party to criticise the workings of the Government in order to alert and educate the public opinion.

Thirdly, the principle of equality is the very basis of liberal democratic system. We know that in a liberal democratic model, the people are the source of all powers and authority. And they delegate them to their elected representatives for a short period (3 to 5 years). So, the liberal democratic Government should discharge its duties in such a way that the people can enjoy the fundamental freedom of equality before law and equal protection of laws. Our Republican Constitution guarantees this freedom under Article 14.

Fourthly, the liberal democratic State recognises all civil and political rights of the residents including its Citizens. Civil liberties, such as freedom of speech and expression, and religion; freedom from arbitrary arrest, right to education, right to family etc. are recognised and protected within the political system. Again, the political rights like right to elect and to be elected, right to hold public offices, right to petitions etc. are also given to the Citizens. Constitutional recognition of a variety of freedoms and liberties civil and political—can be found in liberal democratic countries of the U.S.A. and India.

Fifthly, the liberal democracy is characterised by the principle of universal adult suffrage. As *Alan Ball* opines there are periodic (2-5 years) elections based on universal franchise. Again, as the liberal democratic political system provides an elected representative Government, free and fair elections take place periodically to enable the electorate to exercise their franchise through secret ballot. Again, it is only in a liberal democracy, people may change their Government, if necessary by Constitutional methods. Such a system guarantees freedom of thinking, writing, speaking, elections etc. to influence the working of the Government.

Sixthly, the liberal democratic system stands on the principle of limited Government. The powers of the three organs (legislative, executive, and judiciary) are separated and also inter-connected by the doctrine of checks and balances, both in Parliamentary and non-Parliamentary political systems, three organs of Government have their respective areas of jurisdiction. But the representative Assembly has some form of control over the executive, and the judiciary is independent of both executive and legislature.

Seventhly, in a liberal democratic State, the people have the right to express their views and grievances so as to mould public

opinion which the Government need not and cannot falsify. There is a substantial amount of independence and freedom from Government control of the mass media, i.e., radio, television, newspapers. In some liberal democratic countries (for example, Switzerland) the devices of initiative, referendum, and recall are introduced to check any possible abuse of power by the Government.

Eightly, in liberal democracy, the competition of power is open not secretive, and based on established and accepted forms of procedure. Besides, entry and recruitment to positions of political power is relatively open.

Ninthly, the liberal democratic State lays emphasis on secularism implying freedom of conscience and morality. The State has no official religion or ideology of its own to impose it upon the people by means of force and fraud. In liberal democracy, every person is entitled to profess, practise, and propagate his own religion.

Tenthly, there is an independent judiciary in liberal democratic system. That is, there is an independent and impartial judiciary to act as a check on the arbitrary exercise of power either by the legislators or by the administrators.

Lastly, pressure groups are able to operate to influence Government decision. Associations such as trade unions, chambers of commerce, and other voluntary interest groups are not subject to close Governmental control.

The political systems of Britain, France, the United States, Germany etc. can be grouped together under the label "liberal democratic", thereby stressing certain important characteristics mentioned above that liberal democratic system possesses in contrast to other political systems like autocratic and socialist political systems.

contrast to other political systems

of socialist political system
state its and features.

Ans. Socialist political system is a new pattern or modern types of democracy. It thoroughly rejects the design of a liberal democracy and instead offers the model of people's or proletarian democracy. The concept of socialist political system is based on the ideology and programmes of Marxism-Leninism. It is the transition from capitalism to communism. According to Lenin—"Socialist democracy is a political system which gives

maximum of democracy for the workers and peasants, at the sametime, it marks a break with bourgeois democracy and the rise of a new epoch-making type of democracy namely proletarian democracy or the dictatorship of the proletariat. Again, as Lenin said—socialist democracy is a million times more democratic than any bourgeois democracy. The basic principles of socialist democracy can be found in countries like the people's Republic of China, and Cuba.

Let us now analyse the basic features of the socialist democracy.

(1) Socialist democracy implies the rule of the working class. It not only guarantees the rights of the working people, but also provides conditions for the masses to exercise them. They actively take part in the political life of the country and in all public affairs through their wide participation in State bodies.

(2) Socialist democracy ensures equality in economic, social, and political fields. In its economic sphere, it means removal of major social evils like unemployment, starvation, disease and like. Hence, it desires common ownership of the means of production and distribution of goods. Lenin said, political liberty without economic equality is a sham.

(3) In socialist democracy, people are sovereign and the source of all political power and authority. It means absence of class distinction and exploitation of any kind. It desires social equality ensuring the dignity of labour and worth of the individual.

(4) Another unique feature of socialist democracy is the democratic Centralism. It means the electiveness of all bodies of State authority from the lowest to the highest, their accountability to the people, and the obligation of the lower bodies to observe the decisions of the higher ones. Democratic Centralism combines Central leadership with local initiative and creative activity and with responsibility of each State body and official for the work entrusted to them.

(5) Socialist democracy recognizes and guarantees liberties and freedoms of all kinds to the people to develop their inherent qualities. They include—freedoms of speech and expression, religion, press, association; right to work, rest and leisure, also material assistance in old age. Again, people are equal before law and enjoy equal protection of laws irrespective of caste,

race; sex, family background. Hence, a person must enjoy his freedoms and rights in such a way as not to infringe upon the interests of the State and the rights of other people. However, in socialist democracy, the State authority places the economic and social rights above the political freedom.

(6) In socialist democracy, there exists only one political party—the Communist party. No other political party is allowed to function in the society. The Communist party is the vanguard of the working class and the leading and guiding force of the society. It exists for the people and serves the people. The Communist party armed with Marxism-Leninism, determines the general perspectives of the development of socialist democratic society.

(7) Under the socialist democracy, the State authority has at its disposal the press, radio, television. Again, it controls the schools, universities, scientific and cultural institutions.

However, the socialist pattern of democracy is not an improvement upon the model of liberal democracy, it is a racial departure from it. The need of to-day is to humanise people's democracy and to socialise liberal democracy in a way that a better and more equitable model of democracy can exist.

authoritarianism is not a way of
not stand for the common good of the people. Hence,
alternative to democracy.

Parliamentary political system? Find out the features of Parliamentary system.

Ans. Parliamentary Government is that system which is founded on the union of executive and legislative leadership. It is a form of Government in which executive powers may be legally vested in the hands of a President or monarch, but he/she does not exercise powers without the advice of a term of ministers headed by a Prime-minister.

Parliamentary system exists in Great Britain and many countries of Western Europe, in Canada, Australia and New Zealand and the different Asian countries like India, Japan, Malaysia as well as in Africa.

Features of Parliamentary system : Parliamentary system is very popular now a days. After the 2nd World War different countries have adopted this kind of system. Now, we make some basic features of Parliamentary system. These are as follows :

Firstly, in a Parliamentary system, we can find two types of Government like nominal leadership and real leadership, nominal leadership does not expose his/her power, where as the real leadership does expose his/her power. The nominal executive, either a Constitutional monarch or a titular President, is charged with ceremonial leadership, symbolising the unity, real or alleged of the Nation-State. the real executive consists of a Cabinet or council of ministers headed by a Prime-minister. The nominal executive may possess certain powers or may exert personal influence but cannot act without ministerial advice

Secondly, Parliamentary system is based on interdependence between the real executive and legislative assembly. A Cabinet or a council of ministers emerges immediately from the assembly. The ministers are the leaders of the majority or of

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a coalition of two or more parties that form a majority in the assembly. The Government is immediately responsible to the assembly. If the assembly withdraws its confidence, say by a vote of censure the Government is expected to resign.

Thirdly, collective responsibility of ministers is another feature of Parliamentary Government. Collective responsibility means that ministers share responsibility for the decisions taken by the Cabinet. All ministers must defend Cabinet decisions from attack. If a minister is defeated in the assembly for carrying out a Cabinet decision, the Government should accept defeat.

The Parliamentary Government is thus founded on a union of executive and legislative leadership and, at the same time, upon a harmonious relationship between them.

Fourthly, in Parliamentary system, there is a close relationship between executive legislative and judiciary.

Finally, under a Parliamentary system we can find different political situations. Party-politics based on one party, multi-party or bi-party manner.