

Chapter 3- How the State Government Works

1. Use the terms 'constituency' and 'represent' to explain who an MLA is and how is the person elected?

Solution: In accordance with the number of population, a state is divided into constituencies. For representation in the Legislative Assembly, every constituency elects one representative who shoulders the responsibility of representing his/her constituency at the national level. These representatives are called MLA's or Member of Legislative Assembly are elected through a general election. They may be part of a political party or independent candidates. They also have the additional responsibility of presenting the needs and demands of their constituency at the Legislative Assembly.

2. How did some MLAs become Ministers? Explain

Solution: The party which gets the majority votes in the general elections forms the government. As per constitutional norms, the ruling party elects its leader as the Chief Minister of the respective state. Upon the election of a Chief Minister, he/she constitutes a cabinet with members of his/her party included. This is done in consultation with the Governor of the state. Once the MLAs are ordained as ministers through the formation of the cabinet, they are allotted portfolios such as health, law, education etc. Thus they become responsible for the portfolio allotted to him/her.

3. Why should decisions taken by the Chief Ministers and other ministers be debated in the Legislative Assembly?

Solution: Every decision taken by the Chief Minister and his/her cabinet must be debated upon the Legislative Assembly to ensure that the decision being taken is in the best interest of the common people at large. Also discussed is the level of priority the said decision must be given, the subsequent cost of implementing it or whether such a decision will earn the objections of any particular community.

4. What was the problem in Patalapuram? What discussions/actions were taken by the following? Fill in the table.

Public meeting
Legislative Assembly

Press conference
Chief Minister

Solution:

Public meeting	Condemn the government, carried out protests and put forth their demand
Legislative Assembly	Discussed the issue and decided the course of action
Press Conference	The health minister presented the plan of action initiated by the Government
Chief Minister	Visited the village of Patalpuram, announced compensation to the affected families, also clarified the future action that will be taken to solve the problem

5. What is the difference between the work that MLAs do in the Assembly and the work done by government departments?

Solution: The core difference between the work done by MLAs in the assembly and government departments is that every government department is headed by a minister who is also an MLA. The minister approves any work done or proposed by the department. The department is responsible for the completion of the work while the MLAs coordinate between the Legislative Assembly and the various government machinery that will be involved in the completion of any projects undertaken.