

**1. Why do you think there are so few cases of private water supply in the world?**

**Answer:** Water is a basic necessity. Hence, universal access to safe drinking water is necessary for a standard quality of life. It needs to be provided to everyone – either free of charge or at affordable rates. But, as private companies work towards the singular goal of maximising profits, there was a steep rise in the price of water in cases where the responsibility for water supply was handed over to private companies. This made water unaffordable for many. Cities saw huge protests with riots breaking out at various places. This forced the governments to take back the service from private hands. Therefore, only a few cases of private water supply exist in the world.

**2. Do you think water in Chennai is available to and affordable by all? Discuss.**

**Answer:** Water is not equally available to all citizens in Chennai. Water in Chennai is supplied by the municipality, which fails to meet the demand 100%. Some areas get a regular water supply, while many areas get an erratic supply of water. People from the middle class and upper class buy packaged drinking water or water from tankers. The burden of water supply shortage falls mostly on the poor, as they cannot afford the expense of tankers or packaged water. Those who live close to the storage points get more water, while colonies further away receive less supply.

**3. How is the sale of water by farmers to water dealers in Chennai affecting the local people? Do you think local people can object to such exploitation of groundwater? Can the government do anything in this regard?**

**Answer:** Due to the shortage of water, private companies have got an opportunity and are selling water to cities by buying it from places around the city. In Chennai, water is taken from nearby towns like Karungizhi Palur and Mamandur village to the north of the city, using a fleet of over 13,000 water tankers. Every month, the water dealers pay an advance to farmers for the rights to exploit water sources on their land. This way, the water that is taken away is not just creating a deficit for agricultural purposes but also increasing the shortage of drinking water supplies in the villages. As a result, the level of groundwater has dropped drastically in all these towns and villages.

**4. Why are most of the private hospitals and private schools located in major cities and not in towns or rural areas?**

**Answer** Most of the private schools and hospitals are located in the cities rather than in towns or villages. Since their sole motive is maximum profit, the services they offer are costly and affordable only to affluent dwellers in the city.

**5. Do you think the distribution of public facilities in our country is adequate and fair? Give an example of your own to explain.**

**Answer** While there is no doubt that public facilities should be made available to all, in reality, we see that there is a great shortage of such facilities. The distribution of public facilities in our country is neither adequate nor fair. For example, the Delhites avail all public facilities like healthcare and sanitation, water, electricity, schools, colleges and public transport. But if we go to places a few kilometres away, such as Mathura or Aligarh, people have to face grave crises for these facilities. Water shortages and electricity cut-offs are part of the normal routine of life in those places. Public transport is

also not properly developed. Compared to the metros and large cities, towns and villages are under-provided. Compared to wealthy localities, the poorer localities are under-serviced. Handing these facilities over to private companies is not an answer. The important fact is that every citizen of the country has a right to these facilities, which should be provided to all in an equitable manner.

**6. Take some of the public facilities in your area, such as water, electricity, etc. Is there scope to improve these? What in your opinion should be done? Complete the table.**

	<b>Is it available?</b>	<b>How can it be improved?</b>
<b>Water</b>		
<b>Electricity</b>		
<b>Road</b>		
<b>Public Transport</b>		

**Answer**

	<b>Is it available?</b>	<b>How can it be improved?</b>
<b>Water</b>	yes	Constructing separate water tanks and making water supply available 24 hours.
<b>Electricity</b>	yes	Making electricity supply available 24 hours by keeping a check on electricity theft and its conservation
<b>Road</b>	yes	No improvement needed. But if there are no proper roads, then the construction of new roads, more flyovers and highways will be of help

<b>Public Transport</b>	yes	Public transport is good, but better connectivity to more areas in the city can be achieved by introducing new buses and increasing the frequency of buses
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**7. Are the above public facilities shared equally by all the people in your area? Elaborate.**

**Answer** No, the above-mentioned facilities are not shared equally in the areas. Water supply is not shared equally by all the people. The slum dwellers have to manage with a single water tap, whereas each house in a middle-class locality has a separate connection for water. While people of middle-class homes buy water from tankers to meet their needs, those in slums cannot afford it. However, other facilities, like electricity, road and public transport, are shared equally by all.

**8. Data on some of the public facilities are collected as part of the Census. Discuss with your teacher when and how the Census is conducted.**

**Answer** Students have to do this under the guidance of their teacher.

**9. Private educational institutions – schools, colleges, universities, technical and vocational training institutes are coming up in our country in a big way. On the other hand, educational institutes run by the government are becoming relatively less important. What do you think would be the impact of this? Discuss.**

**Answer** Education is a basic need, and there should be universal access to education. But, as the main motive of private education institutes is earning profits, they charge high fees which are affordable only to the affluent section of society. Thus, the right to quality education is only fulfilled for the rich class. Similarly, if government education institutes are not up to the mark, then weaker sections are again deprived of quality education. This, in turn, results in the disparity of quality education between the rich and the poor.