

Popular Struggle and Movements

Q1: In what ways do pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics?

Ans: The Pressure groups and movements exert influence on politics in following ways:

1. **Attracting public support:** They try to gain public support and sympathy for their goals and objectives by launching public awareness campaigns, filing petitions etc. They also try to influence the media in giving more attention to these issues.
2. **Organising Protests/Strikes:** They also organise protest, rallies, peace marches and strikes etc in order to attract the Government attention and threat compelling it to take note of their demand.
3. **Participation in committees:** Some persons from pressure groups or movement groups may participate in official bodies and committees that offer advice to the government.
4. **Impact on political parties:** Pressure groups and movements do not directly engage in party politics, they seek to exert influence on political parties.
5. **Extended arms of Political Parties:** There are occasions when political parties themselves play a role in creation of pressure groups or movements.
6. **New Parties:** There are instances when these movements give birth to a new political party.

Q2: Describe the forms of relationship between pressure groups and political parties?

Ans: The relationship between political parties and pressure groups can take the following different forms, some direct and others very indirect:

Direct Ways:

1. Pressure groups are formed by political parties: usually pressure groups are formed by the leader of the political parties. They also act as

extended arms of political parties e.g. trade union, student union, labour union association of industrialists are either established by or recognized by the major political parties.

2. Political parties evolve from pressure groups: In another way political parties also come out from pressure groups like DMK and AIADMK evolved from the movement groups of Tamil Nadu of 1930s and 1940s are the examples of direct relationships.

Indirect ways:

Pressure groups and political parties are opposite to each other. But in most cases the relationships between two is not very direct because the main aim of pressure groups is to pressurize the ruling party. And many a times issues raised by the pressure or movement groups are taken up by the political parties, leading to the change in the policies of the party.

Q3: Explain how the activities of pressure groups are useful in the functioning of a democratic government?

Ans: The Activities of the pressure groups are useful in the functioning of the democratic government in the following ways:

1. The activities led by the pressure groups can push the government to rethink on the policies and acts proposed by them for the country.
2. It is good for the government run country. Their activities like Campaigns or protests can bring attention to the acts of government which otherwise remain behind the curtains.
3. These pressure groups can help bring awareness to the citizens of governmental activities and hence, the political parties have to act in a responsible manner.
4. They provide opportunity for marginalised people to voice their opinions and force the government to make the policies which will benefit all the sections of the society.

Q4: What is a pressure group? Give a few examples.

Ans: Pressure group is an organized aggregate group, which seeks to influence the government's decision making without attempting to place their members in formal governmental capacity. It is formed

by the people of common interests, occupations and opinion in order to achieve the common objective. A pressure group uses extra-constitutional measures to influence the government.

Examples:

1. Farmers, organizations: Bharitya Kissan Union etc.
2. Trade Unions: All India Trade union Congress, Indian National Trade Union Congress and Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh etc.
3. Business groups: FICCI, ASSOHAM, CII etc.

Q5: What is the difference between a pressure group and a political party?

Ans:

	Pressure Group	Political Party
1	Pressure group is an organised or unorganised group	Political Party is an organised group.
2	They do not contest elections.	They contest elections.
3	These do not aim to directly control or share political power.	These aim to directly control or share political powers.
4	Pressure groups have specific interest and work for the collective interests of its membership only.	Political parties have a broad based programme that covers many aspects of national like influence and coerce the government.
5	Membership of pressure groups is limited and that too of a particular kind, that is a student's pressure group will consist only of students and not of traders etc.	A membership of parties is very broad.
6	Pressure groups resort to agitation politics like marches, demonstrations, strikes etc.	Political parties use only constitutional means to achieve their aims.