



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, FARIDABAD

Political Science Assignment — 2016-2017, Semester I

Unit - I

Class - XI

Book : Indian Constitution at Work
Chapter 1 : Constitution : Why and How?

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. Define universal suffrage.
- Q2. What is a constitution?
- Q3. The idea of 'Fundamental Rights' was borrowed from which country?
- Q4. What a constitution does to the society?
- Q5. How much time did India take to prepare its constitution?
- Q6. When was the Constitution of India passed?
- Q7. When was the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly held?
- Q8. In which year Objectives Resolution was moved?

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. What are the functions of a Constitution?
- Q2. Write a short note on 'Objective Resolution'.
- Q3. What is Preamble?
- Q4. What is two nation theory?
- Q5. Who gets to decide what the laws will be in a democracy?
- Q6. How much time did the Constituent Assembly take to prepare the Constitution?

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. Explain the composition of the Constituent Assembly.
- Q2. Why is it necessary for a constitution to place limitations on the rulers? Can there be a constitution that gives no power at all to the citizens?
- Q3. What would happen in the absence of demarcation of powers?
- Q4. Give four features of the Constitution of India.
- Q5. 'Indian Constitution carried enormous public authority'. Explain the statement.

SECTION D

CONSTITUTION : WHY AND HOW?

- **A Constitution :**

A Constitution is a set of rules and regulations by which a country is governed.

Functions :

1. Allows for coordination and assurance amongst members of a society.
2. Specifies who will have the power of make decisions.
3. It sets limits on what a government can impose on its citizens.
4. To enable the government to fulfil the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society.

• **Preamble :**

- * As we have a preface for a book, we have Preamble for our Constitution.
- * Time taken to prepare our Constitution - between Dec. 1946 and Nov. 1949.

• **Constitution carried public authority :**

- * 'The Indian Constitution was never subjected to a referendum but nevertheless carried enormous public authority' - because it had the consensus and backing of leaders who were themselves very popular and were able to convince people that constitution was not an instrument for the showing off their power.
- * 'The more a constitution preserves the freedom and equality of all its members, the more likely it is to succeed'. - No constitution by itself achieves perfect justice. But it has to convince people that it provides a framework for pursuing basic justice.

• **Constitution Assembly:**

- * First meeting of the constituent Assembly on 9th Dec. 1946.
- * Members elected by indirect election by members of Provisional Legislative Assemblies.
- * British Constitution committee had proposed the following plan - (Cabinet Mission's Plan for electing Constituent Assembly).
 - a) Provinces under British rule were to elected 292 members. Princely states - 93 seats.
 - b) Seats distributed amongsts three main communities - Muslims, Sikhs and General in each province.
 - c) Members of each community elected their own representative by method of proportional representation.
 - d) Selection of representatives of Princely states was to be decided by consultation.

• **Composition of Constituent Assembly :**

- * Total No. of Members : 299
284 were present on 26th Nov. 1949.
- * Member of all religions were given representation under the scheme prepared.
- * 26 members - Scheduled classes.
- * Congress dominated the Assembly. It managed to include all shades of opinion.
- * it had 8 major committees on different subjects Pt. Nehru, Dr. R. Prasad, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar chaired these committees.
- * Each committee drafted a particular provision of the constitution. There were then debated upon.
- * It met for one hundred and sixty six days, spread over two years and eleven months.

• **Objectives Resolution :**

- * Best Summary of the principles that the nationalist movement brought to the constituent Assembly is the objectives resolution.
- * It was moved by Nehru in 1946.

• **Main points of the Objectives Resolution**

- * India is an independent, sovereign, republic;
- * India shall be a Union of erstwhile British Indian territories, Indian States, and other parts outside British India and Indian States as are willing to be a part of the Union;
- * Territories forming the Union shall be autonomous units and exercise all powers and functions of the Government and administration, except those assigned to or vested in the Union;
- * All powers and authority of sovereign and independent India and its constitution shall flow from the people;

- * All people of India shall be guaranteed and secured social, economic and political justice; equality of status and opportunities and equality before law; and fundamental freedoms - of speech, expression, belief,, faith, worship" vocation, association and action -subject to law and public morality;
- * The minorities, backward and tribal areas, depressed and other backward classes shall be provided adequate safeguards;
- * The territorial integrity of the Republic and its sovereign
- **Rights on land, sea and air shall be maintained according to justice and law of civilized nations**
 - * The land would make full and willing contribution-to the promotion of world peace and welfare of mankind.
- **Provisions borrowed from constitutions of different countries.**
 - * *British Constitution*
 - * Parliamentary form of government
 - * Rule of Law
 - * Speaker's Office
 - * Law making procedure
 - * *Constitution of USA*
 - * Fundamental Rights
 - * Judicial Review
 - * Independence of Judiciary
 - * *Canadian Constitution*
 - * Quasi-federal system
 - * Residuary powers
 - * *Irish Constitution*
 - * Directive Principles of State Policy
 - * *French Constitution*
 - * Principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.



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Political Science Assignment — 2016-2017, Semester I

Unit - I

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Chapter 2 : Rights In the Indian Constitution

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. Define rights.
- Q2. What is the relevance of Motilal Nehru Committee?
- Q3. Explain 'begar'.
- Q4. What is 'untouchability'?
- Q5. What is 'bill of rights'?
- Q6. What is the current status of Right to Property?
- Q7. In which year and by which amendment Fundamental Duties were added in the constitution?
- Q8. Can government put restrictions on our fundamental rights?

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. What is the difference between ordinary legal rights and Fundamental Rights?
- Q2. What are the limitations of Right to Freedom?
- Q3. Explain 'Habeas Corpus'.
- Q4. What kind of rights an accused has?
- Q5. Give the features of Right to Freedom?
- Q6. What are 'fundamental rights'? How are they different from other rights?

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. Give features of Right to Equality.
- Q2. "Right to Constitutional Remedies is the heart and soul of the constitution." Explain.
- Q3. 'Fundamental Rights are not absolute or unlimited rights'. Explain.
- Q4. Explain the following Writs :
 - a. Mandamus
 - b. Certiorari
- Q5. What is 'Preventive detention'? How it has proved to be an effective tool in the hands of the government to deal with negative elements?
- Q6. What is the relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles?

SECTION D

IV. Beyond the Book :

- Q1. Make a list of Human Rights given in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of UN.

Q2. Read the information given in the box and answer questions.

CONVERSION FOR BIGAMY IS ILLEGAL

On 5 May, 2000 the Supreme Court pronounced that a married Hindu man embracing Islam in order to marry again will be liable to prosecution under the Hindu Marriage Act and the Indian Penal Code.

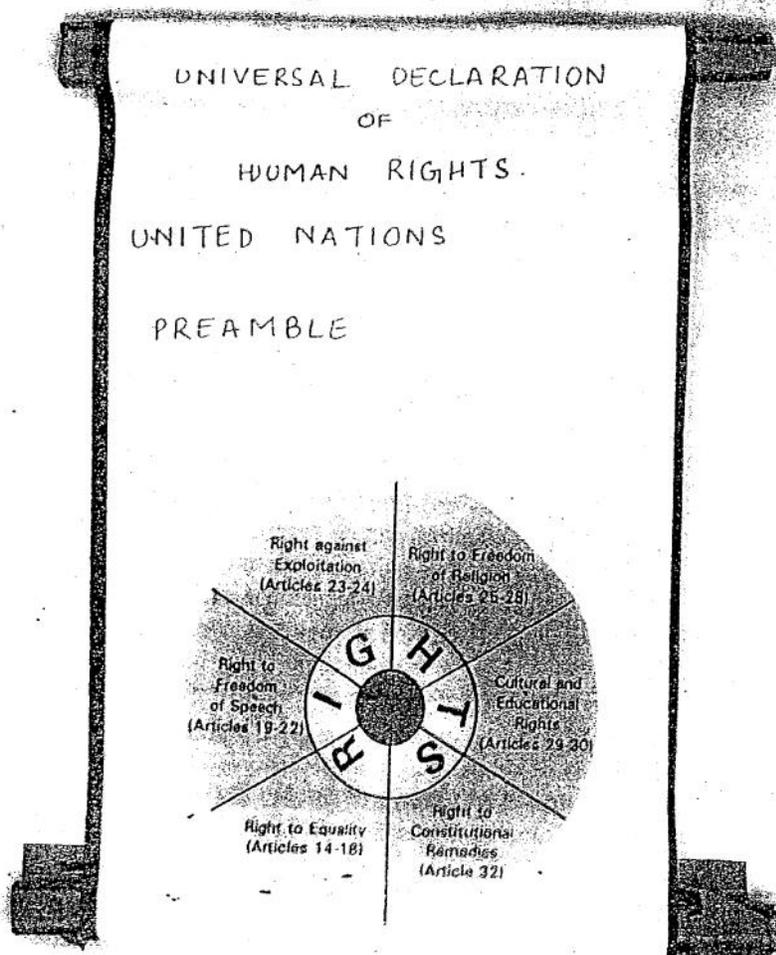
The Supreme Court said, "A person who mockingly adopts another religion where plurality of marriage is permitted so as to renounce the previous marriage and desert the wife cannot be permitted to take advantage of his exploitation as religion is nota commodity to be exploited."

Questions :

- What do you understand by the word 'bigamy'?
- How for should state interfere in the rights of citizens in your opinion?

Q3. Go through the poster given below.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS



Universal Declaration - This poster designed to create awareness about universal declaration of human rights.



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Unit - I

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Chapter 3 : Election and Representation

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. Define election.
- Q2. What are the various types of election in India?
- Q3. Can we hold elections without having democracy?
- Q4. What is Delimitation Commission?
- Q5. What is Universal Adult Franchise?

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. 'Elections are lifeline of democracy'. Explain.
- Q2. Show the difference between by-election and mid term election.
- Q4. After how many years does a general election take place in our country?
- Q5. Do non-democratic countries also hold elections?
- Q3. Name the body that conducts election in India. Give its tenure also.

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. Explain 'Special Majority'.
- Q2. Write a note on reserved constituencies.
- Q3. What are the functions of the Election Commission of India?
- Q4. What are the suggestions given to improve the mechanism of elections?

IV. Read the passage given below and answer the questions.

The competitive electoral process in India democracy with or without women's reservation will fail to deliver policies that are not gender-biased. In the presence of missing women, whose consent cannot be taken into account in the electoral process, democracy will fail to deliver policies that promote women's welfare (especially in those situations where there is a divergence in opinion between men and women). India can begin to address this disaster by first recognising that an adverse gender ratio is a human rights problem which is an outcome of the sustained gross neglect of women. And the solution for this lies outside the competitive democratic system.

(The writers are professors at the Indian School of Business)

- Q1. Do you agree with the writer's views? Give reasons.
- Q2. Suggest certain methods to improve the gender ratio at large.

V. Beyond the Book :

MISSING WOMEN

Even though fair elections are held at regular intervals for State Assemblies and Parliament, they do not reflect the true consent of the people because a large number of women are missing from the electorate.



Read these two cartoons carefully. Write the message of each of them in your own words. Have a discussion in class on which of the two is closer to the reality in your own locality. Draw a cartoon to depict what elections do to the relationship between voters and political leaders.



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Chapter 4 : Executive

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. What is collective responsibility?
- Q2. Who elects the political executive?
- Q3. What is the tenure of the Vice - President of India?
- Q4. Who is the nominal head in India?
- Q5. Who appoints the P.M.?
- Q6. How many categories of ministers are there in the council of Ministers?
- Q7. Who is the ex-officio Chariman of Rajya Sabha?

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. Why do you think advice of the Council of Ministers is binding on the President?
- Q2. What happens if someone becomes a minister without being an MP?
- Q3. What is direct and indirect democracy?
- Q4. Enlist the powers of the Prime Minister of India.
- Q5. What is the difference between political and permanent executive?

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. What are the discretionary powers of the President?
- Q2. Compare the parliamentary and presidential system of government.
- Q3. What are the important functions of the executive?
- Q4. Why is it necessary to control the executive?
- Q5. Give the powers and functions of the Indian President.

IV. Read the passage given below and answer the question.

PRINCIPLE OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The essence of Collective Responsibility says Ivor Jennings, is that "the Minister must vote with the government, speak in defence of it if the Prime Minister insists and that he cannot afterwards reject criticism of his act, either in Parliament or in the Constituencies, on the ground that he did not agree with the decision."

- a. Do we practise principle of Collective Responsibility anywhere outside Council of Ministers?

SECTION D

V. Beyond the book :





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Unit - II

Class - XI

Chapter 5 : Legislature

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. The term 'Parliament' refers to the _____.
- Q2. What is a money bill?
- Q3. Name the states having a bicameral legislature.
- Q4. What is rule of law?
- Q5. What is Parliament?
- Q6. What is 'defection'?

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. What is the difference between a bicameral and a unicameral legislature?
- Q2. Why do we call Rajya Sabha as permanent House?
- Q3. Parliamentary Committees are also called miniature legislatures. Why?
- Q4. When does a Joint Session of Parliament takes place?

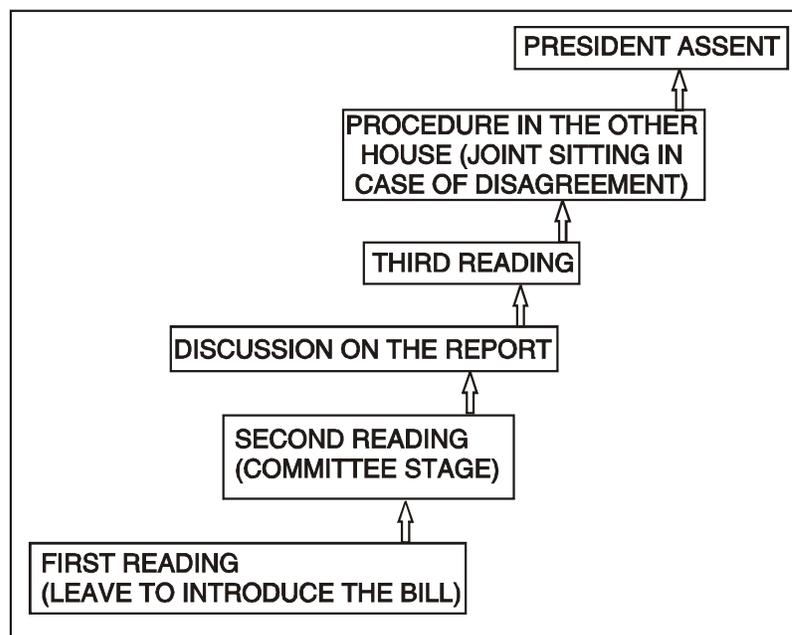
SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. Why do we need a Parliament?
- Q2. What is the purpose of having two Houses of Parliament?
- Q3. What are the powers of Rajya Sabha?
- Q4. What are the powers and functions of the Parliament?
- Q5. What are the stages of passing of a Bill?
- Q6. What are the ways by which Parliament keeps a check on the Executive?
- Q7. What is the role of Committees of Parliament?
- Q8. Which House is more powerful and why?
- Q9. In India 'Parliament is the highest debating forum'. Explain.
- Q10. How are members of Rajya Sabha elected?

SECTION D

IV. Beyond The Book :



STAGES THROUGH WHICH A BILL PASSES

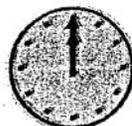
A day in the life of the Lok Sabha

7 December 2004 was an ordinary day in the life of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. Let us take a look at what happened in the course of that day. Identify the role and powers of the parliament on the basis of the proceedings for the day as given below. You can also enact this day in your classroom.



11:00 Various ministries gave written answers to about 250 questions that were asked by members. These included:

- ▣ What is the government's policy on talking to militant groups in Kashmir?
- ▣ What are the figures of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes, including those inflicted by the police?
- ▣ What is the government doing about overpricing of medicines by big companies?



12:00 A large number of official documents were presented and were available for discussion. These included:

- ▣ Recruitment rules for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force
- ▣ Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- ▣ Report and accounts of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam



12:02 The Minister of Development of North Eastern Region made a statement regarding Revitalisation of the North Eastern Council.

The Minister of State for Railways presented a statement showing the grant needed by the

Railways in addition to that sanctioned in the Railway Budget.

The Minister of Human Resource Development introduced the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Bill, 2004. He also gave a statement explaining why the government had to bring an ordinance for this.



12:14 Several members highlighted some issues, including:

- ▣ The vindictiveness of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in registering cases against some leaders in the Tehelka case.
- ▣ Need to include Rajasthani as an official language in the Constitution.
- ▣ Need to renew the insurance policies of farmers and agricultural workers of Andhra Pradesh.



2:26 Two bills proposed by the government were considered and passed. These were:

- ▣ The Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill
- ▣ The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amendment) Bill



4:00 Finally, there was a long discussion regarding the foreign policy of the government and the need to continue an independent foreign policy in the context of the situation in Iraq.



7:17 Discussion concluded. House adjourned for next day.



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Unit - III

Class - XI

Chapter 6 : Judiciary

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. What is 'impeachment'?
- Q2. What is the full form of PIL?
- Q3. What are 'writs'?
- Q4. What are the functions of judiciary?
- Q5. What is Habeas Corpus?

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. What kind of cases are solved by the Supreme court of India?
- Q2. Explain the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India.
- Q3. Enlist issues around which there has been a controversy between the parliament and judiciary in India.
- Q4. What is the basic idea behind introducing Public Interest Litigation?

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. Why do we need an independent judiciary?
- Q2. Write is note on 'judicial activism'? Explain
- Q3. How can independence of judiciary be provided and protected?
- Q4. Write a short note on the power of 'Judicial Review' of the supreme Court of India.
- Q5. Explain the structure of judiciary in India.

SECTION D

IV. Beyond The Book :

Judicial Activism : The word 'activism' means "vigorous action in pursuit of an objective". The Supreme Court gave its considered opinion on the need for a Uniform Civil Code, the incapacity of our government to keep our rivers clean and cases involving powerful politicians and bureaucrats. Causes responsible for Judicial Activism were - failure of the other two organs of government (legislature and executive) to take hard and unpleasant decisions, and Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

The PIL helped the poor and the oppressed, the bonded labourers, prisoners and those belonging to weaker sections of society.

The PIL expanded the scope of our rights. The clean air and unpolluted river waters were declared as the new rights that needed to be protected by State.



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Unit - III

Class - XI

Chapter 7 : Federalism

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. What is federalism?
- Q2. In which year the States Reorganisation Commission was set up?
- Q3. What are 'residuary subjects'?
- Q4. Enlist the issues of conflict between centre and states in India.

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. What are the essential features of federalism?
- Q2. Write a note on Centre - State relations in India.
- Q3. What did Sarkaria Commission recommend?

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. What is the role of a Governor in a federation?
- Q2. 'The most extra ordinary feature of the federal arrangement created in India is that many states get a differential treatment'. Explain.
- Q3. Make a flow chart of division of subjects into three lists given in the constitution.
- Q4. Why did India opt for federalism with a strong central government?

SECTION D

IV. Beyond The Book :

Union List : The Union List includes subjects such as defence of India, atomic energy, foreign affairs, citizenship, railways, posts and telegraph, currency and coinage, banking and inter-state trade and commerce.

State List : The State List consists of items which are mainly of local interest such as public order, police, local government, public health, agriculture, land revenue, tolls and taxes on lands and buildings.

Concurrent List : The list consists of items such as criminal law, marriage and divorce, forests, adulteration of food stuffs, trade unions, education, and welfare of labour. The Parliament and the State legislatures have concurrent power to make laws on the items included in this list. If there is a conflict between a Union law and a law passed by State Legislature, the Union law shall prevail over any State law in this regard.

Residuary Powers : The residuary powers (the power to legislate on matters not enumerated in any of the lists) are vested in the Union Parliament.



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Political Science Assignment — 2016-2017, Semester I

Unit - III

Class - XI

Chapter 8 : Local Governments

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. What is local government?
- Q2. If the state government dissolves panchayat before the expiry of its tenure, within how much time fresh election is to be conducted?
- Q3. Name the body that conducts elections in villages?
- Q4. How many subjects were transferred to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and from which List?
- Q5. What was ensured with the reservation for women in local bodies?
- Q6. What is the difference between 73rd and 74th Amendments?
- Q7. Which Amendment Acts give fillip to the local governments?
- Q8. What percentage of seats are reserved for women in village panchayats?

SECTION B

II. Short Answer Type Questions :

- Q1. Do you agree with the statement that "Strengthening local government is like strengthening democratic processes".
- Q2. 'In many ways the 74th amendment is repetition of the 73rd amendment except that it applies to urban areas'. Explain.
- Q3. What are the functions of local governments?

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. Subject of local government did not receive adequate importance in the Constitution. Give reasons.
- Q2. What changes were brought by the 73rd amendment in Panchayati Raj institutions?
- Q3. Trace the creation of elected local government bodies in modern India.



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Unit - III

Class - XI

Chapter 9 : Constitution As A Living Document

SECTION A

I. Very short answer type questions :

- Q1. What does one understand by 'rigid' constitution?
- Q2. Which Article of the Constitution contains the amendment procedure?
- Q3. When was the constitution of India adopted?
- Q4. When was our constitution implemented?

SECTION B

II. Short answer type questions :

- Q1. Why was the provision for special majority made for amending certain parts of the constitution?
- Q2. Which organ of the government was given the authority to decide as to what constitutes the basic structure?
- Q3. What is rule of law?
- Q4. Is it important to make amendments in the Constitution. Give reason for your answer.

SECTION C

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

- Q1. What is 'special Majority'. Explain.
- Q2. Explain the Basic Structure Theory of the Constitution.
- Q3. 'Constitution is a living document'. Comment.
- Q4. Give an account of different ways of amending the Constitution of India.
- Q5. Analyses amendments in our constitution since independence.
- Q6. What is the nature of the Indian constitution?

SECTION D

IV. Let's Go Beyond The Book.

Read the following lines and answer the questions :

"I feel that it (the Constitution of India) is workable, it is flexible and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peace time and in war time."

**Dr. Ambedkar, Chairman,
Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly**

Questions :

1. Give four features of the Indian Constitution.
2. What do we mean by a flexible constitution/
Do you think our constitution is flexible. Give reasons for your answer.