

Chapter 6

The Crisis of Democratic Order

Short Answer Type Questions [4 Marks]

1. Explain the reasons for students movement of 1974 in Bihar and the role played by Jayaprakash Narayan in this movement.

Answer: Reasons for Student's Movement of 1974:

Students organised movement against:

1. Rising prices of food grains, cooking oil and other essential commodities.
2. Corruption in high places.

Assess Role played by Jai Prakash Narayan:

Satyagraha was organised by Jayaprakash Narayan for Indira Gandhi's resignation, he appealed to people not to obey illegal and immoral orders by a massive demonstration on 25 June 1975. All these changed the political mood of the country against Congress.

3. Evaluate the consequences of declaration of emergency in 1975?

Answer: 1. It effected civil liberties of peoples i.e. in April 1976 it was proved that the government could take away citizens' right to life and liberty by overruling of high courts under supreme courts and accepted government's plea.

2 The forth-second Amendment was also passed to bring a series of changes in constitution.

3. It affected the functioning of mass media also as press censorship took place which banned freedom of press and newspapers, which were supposed to prior approval before they publish any material.

4. Despite of filing many petitions government claimed it not to be necessary to be informed the grounds to arrested persons.

4. Explain any two lessons learnt from emergency imposed in 1975.

Answer: The emergency brought out weaknesses and strengths both to India's democracy:

1. First lesson was felt that it was extremely difficult to do away with democracy in India.
2. Secondly, it amended that internal emergency could be proclaimed only on the grounds of armed rebellion, on the advice to the president to proclaim emergency must be given in writing by council of ministers.

3. Thirdly, emergency made everyone more aware of civil liberties as well as courts also took an active role in protecting civil liberties of individuals.

4. Examine the legacy of emergency of 1975 in India

Answer: The legacy of emergency was felt in every sphere of people's life and politics:

- 1. Between the elections of 1977 and 1980, Congress identified itself with particular ideology, claiming to be only socialist and pro-poor party.**
- 2. The concept of non-Congression was created among oppositions parties.**
- 3. The issues of welfare of backward classes began to dominate politics i. e. northern states elected non-Congress leaders of backward class since 1977.**
- 4. This period of emergency saw the period of constitutional crisis to loose its origin in constitutional battle over jurisdiction of parliament and judiciary.**
- 5. This period created political crisis also as the party in power enjoyed absolute majority, still decided to suspend the democratic process.**
- 6. The emergency tensed between institution based democracy and democracy based on spontaneous popular participation for which party system was to be blamed.**

5. Why is emergency and period around it known as the period of constitutional crisis? Explain.

Answer: 1. The Parliament brought in many new changes in constitution which made an amendment declaring that elections of Prime Minister, President and Vice President could not be challenged in the court.

2. The forty second amendment was also passed to bring a series of changes in constitution like duration of legislatures, elections can be postponed by one year during emergency.

6. How far do you agree that the government had misused its emergency powers during 1975-77? Explain.

Answer: No, the government hence misused its 'Emergency Powers'. But it said that it wanted to use the emergency:

- 1. To bring law and order into society.**
- 2. To restore efficiency into administration and system.**
- 3. To implement the pro-poor welfare programmes.**

7. How did emergency of 1975 benefit the Indian democratic set up?

Answer: 1. Between the elections of 1977 and 1980, Congress identified itself with particular ideology, claiming to be only socialist and pro-poor party.

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8. Describe any four circumstances for proclamation of emergency in 1975.

Answer:1. Emergence of Indira Gandhi.

2. Power politics became personalised and governmental authority was converted into personalization.

3. Bitter party competition.

4. Tensed relations between the government and judiciary.

8. Discuss the role of Jayaprakash Narayan in Bihar movement and national politics.

Answer: 1. Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan from Janata Party was a Marxist of youth, who became a Gandhian and involved himself in a Bhoodan movement.

2. He led Bihar movement and opposed the emergency.

3. Bihar students invited him and he accepted on the condition of movement to be non-violent and not to limit only to Bihar territory. Hence, Bihar movement assumed a political character and national appeal.

4. This movement demanded dismissal of Congress government in Bihar and called for total revolution in social, economic and political aspects to establish a total democracy.

5. Bandhs, gheraos, strikes were organised in protest. Even employees of railways organised a strike which threatened to paralyse the country.

6. In 1975, Janata Party led people's march to parliament to be one of the largest political rallies ever held in capital.

7. Janata was supported by non–Congress parties like BJS, socialist parties etc., which projected JP as an alternative to Indira Gandhi.

9. 'Emergency was a Blackmark in Indian History'. Comment.

Answer: 1. Emergency was declared on the ground of internal disturbances on 25 June 1975 to invoke Article 352 of constitution.

2. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi recommended to impose emergency to president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad.

3. Emergency was one of the most controversial episode which possessed different virus regarding to impose emergency.

4. Emergency practically suspended the democratic functioning.

5. 'Shah Commission' exposed many excesses committed during emergency.

6. Emergency highlighted some hidden matters over constitutional battle between the parliament and judiciary.

7. Tensions or conflicts had been arisen between institution based democracy and popular participation of people.