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CLASS-9TH

(BASED ON N C E R T PATTERN)

DATE:- 20.04.21.

HISTORY

FRANCE REVOLUTION

Question 1.

Explain the circumstances under which Louis XVI finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly.

Or

What were the main causes of the French Revolution of 1789?

(i) Assembly of the Estates: On 5th May 1789, Louis XVI called together an assembly of the Estates General to pass proposals for new taxes. Voting in the Estates General in the past had been conducted according to the principle that each estate had one vote. This time too, Louis XVI was determined to continue the same practice. But members of the Third Estate demanded that voting now should be conducted by the assembly as whole, where each member would have one vote. When the king rejected this proposal, members of the Third Estate walked out of the assembly in protest.

(ii) National Assembly: The representatives of the Third Estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for the whole French nation. On 20th June, they assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles. They declared themselves a National Assembly, and swore not to disperse till they had drafted a constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch. They were led by Mirabeau and Abbe' Sieye's.

(iii) Turmoil in France: While the National Assembly was busy at Versailles drafting the Constitution, the rest of France seethed with, turmoil. Due to bad harvest, there was shortage of food, and there was also rumour that bands of brigands were on their way to destroy the ripe crops. Caught in a frenzy of fear, peasants started attacking nobles. Under all these circumstances, Louis XVI

finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly.

(iv) Storming the Bastille: On the morning of 14th July, 1789, the agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille. Under all these circumstances, Louis XVI finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly.

(v) France became a Republic: In 1792 the Jacobians held the king hostage and declared to form a new government. The newly elected Assembly was called the Convention. On 21st September 1792 it abolished the monarchy and declared France as a republic.

Question 2.

Explain how the new political system of Constitutional monarchy in France worked.

Or

Explain any five features of the Constitution drafted in 1791.

Answer:

- The Constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected.
- With the new Constitution the powers of govern the country were assigned to different institutions, i.e., the legislature, executive and the judiciary.
- The judiciary and the legislature were elected by the people. Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage were given the status of active citizens, that is, they were entitled to vote.
- Under this system the powers of the monarch were limited. Most of the powers were in the hands of legislatures.
- The ministers were also answerable to the legislature. The king enjoyed the veto power.

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