

# Law & Social Justice

**Q1. Talk to two workers (For example, construction workers, farm workers, factory workers, workers at any shop) to find out if they are receiving the minimum wages laid down by law.**

**Answer:** Students have to do this by themselves.

**Q2. What are the advantages to foreign companies in setting up production in India?**

**Answer:** The advantages for foreign companies in setting up their production in India are as follows:

1. Foreign companies come to India due to cheap labor. Wages that companies pay workers abroad are more than they pay workers in India.
2. Low wages and long hours of work.
3. Thus, minimum additional expenditure for housing facilities for workers, companies can save costs and earn high profits.
4. Cost cutting can also be done by other dangerous methods such as reduced working conditions. Used as cost reduction methods including lower security measures.

**Q3. Do you think the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy got justice? Discuss.**

**Answer:** The victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy received some monetary compensation but justice. This was due to gross neglect of safety measures by the factory management. Government represented people to claim compensation for the affected. The government demanded \$ 3 billion of which the company paid only \$ 470 million as compensation. Today, after so many tears of tragedy, there are people demanding justice. They still fail to take advantage of safe drinking water, Health facilities and employment for the people. Many people who were ready for life have no use of compensation money. Therefore, it can be said that the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy did not get justice.

**Q4. What do we mean when we speak of law enforcement? Who is responsible for enforcement? Why is enforcement so important?**

**Answer:** Law enforcement means the implementation of law. The government is responsible for enforcement. Enforcement is important when the law seeks to protect people belonging to weaker sections from those who are strong and powerful, to ensure that every worker gets a fair wage, when workers are poor or powerless, the fear of losing future earnings or facing retaliation forces them to accept less wage. Employers use it as a tool to pay workers less than fair pay. In such cases, it is important that law is enforced.

**Q5. How can laws ensure that markets work in a manner that is fair? Give two examples to support your answer.**

**Answer:** Laws ensure that markets act in a fair manner, protecting people from unfair behavior. There are two examples.

*Child Labour Prevention Act:* This law states that no child under 14 years of age shall be employed in any factory or quarry or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

*Right against Exploitation:* This law states that no one can be forced to work on low pay or low pay. Bond. The government has also passed laws to ensure that essential products like kerosene, food grains, sugar etc. are not overpriced. Such restrictions are bound to be imposed on such people. These types of products are marketed so that less inbound people can buy these goods.

**Q6. Imagine yourself to be a worker working in a chemical factory, which has received orders from the government to move to a different site 100 kms away from the present location. Write about how your life would change? Read out your responses in the classroom.**

**Answer:** Students have to do this by themselves.

**Q7. Write a paragraph on the various roles of the government that you have read about in this unit.**

**Answer:** The government plays following roles:

1. Providing public facilities such as health facilities, sanitation and water supply and ensuring that these are not proceeded by private enterprises.
2. Enforcing the law against child labor.
3. Fixing the minimum wage for workers and revising it from time to time.
4. Enforce laws regarding safety at the workplace.
5. Enforcing laws regarding the protection of the environment.
6. Protecting the interests of consumers towards overprinting and standard products.
7. Punishing organizations that do not follow policies to protect the environment against pollution.

**Q8. What are the sources of environmental pollution in your area? Discuss with respect to (a) air, (b) water and (c) soil. What are the steps being taken to reduce the pollution? Can you suggest some other measures?**

**Answer:** There are many sources of environmental pollution in our region:

- (a) The smoke from the petrol and diesel vehicles of the factories is the main reason due to which the air is polluted.
- (b) The main cause of water pollution is chemical fertilizer and waste from factories, farm houses.
- (c) Soil is polluted by pesticides and fertilizers to grow crops or from wastes dumped by human and factory wastes.

**Steps taken to reduce this pollution are:**

- (a) Many laws have been enacted to monitor environmental pollution.
- (b) Promoting CNG vehicles to reduce air pollution.
- (c) Strict action against companies violating environmental laws.
- (d) No rule or law can help in making our environment clean and pollution free unless every person of the society takes responsibility on its behalf to keep its environment clean. Only voluntary actions can make our environment pollution free.

**Q9. How was environment treated earlier? What has been the change in perception? Discuss.**

**Answer:** The environment was considered as a 'free' entity and any industry or individual could pollute the environment without any restrictions. There were very few laws to protect and conserve the environment in India. Government also paid no attention to safeguarding the environment. Now the perception has changed. The government has introduced several laws to protect Conserve the environment like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Courts have given many numbers Decisions to uphold the right to a healthy environment as intrinsic to the fundamental right to life. Various laws and procedures examine pollution, clean rivers. The government can also impose fines which pollute our precious environment.