



Chapter - 19

UNDERSTANDING SECULARISM

NOTES:

EXERCISES

1. Answer the following questions in one word or a sentence:

(a) What is the name of the Jew 's state?

Ans: Israel.

(b) How did Hitler treat other religious groups?

Ans: Hitler treated other religious groups badly. There were many examples of discrimination, exclusion and persecution on grounds of religion. Several Jews were persecuted and killed.

(c) What is not allowed in Saudi Arabia in relation to religion?

Ans: In Saudi Arabia non- Muslims were not allowed to build a temple, church etc.

2. Answer the following questions in about 30/40 words:

(a) What is secularism?

Ans: Secularism means equal treatment of every religion. A secular state is one which is not wedded to any particular religious creed. It allows equal freedom of faith and worship to all.

(b) Why is it important to separate religion from state?

Ans: A country can function democratically only when there is separation of religion from state power. Separation of religion from state power is the most important aspect of secularism.

(c) In what ways does the state prevent the tyranny of the religious majority?

Ans: The tyranny of the religious majority can be checked by secularism. By separating religion from the state the people have the freedom to adopt any religious teaching which they can interpret differently. If there is no such separation the religious majority may have access to state power if there is no such separation. Thus, the state prevents the tyranny of the religious majority by separating religion from state power.

(d) How was untouchability practised among the Hindus in medieval India?

Ans: In medieval India a Harijan was not permitted to enter the famous Mahalaxmi Temple in Mumbai because he was untouchable. Such incidents happened frequently in medieval Indian society.

3. Choose the correct answer:

(i) Which community of the following are treated badly in the state of Jews in Israel?

- A. Muslims**
- B. Hindus**
- C. Jews**
- D. Buddhists**

(ii) In which country building of temple or church is not allowed?

- A. Pakistan**
- B. Saudi Arabia**
- C. South Africa**
- D. Germany**

(iii) In India which of the following can check the tyranny of the religious majority?

- A. Executive**
- B. Fundamental duties**
- C. Secularism**
- D. rule of law**

Answers: (i)– A. Muslims, (ii)– B. Saudi Arabia, (iii) –C. Secularism

4. State true or false.

- (a) In India one religious community does not dominate another.**
- (b) A government school can promote any one religion in any way.**
- (c) The state cannot force a Sikh to wear helmet in place of a turban.**

Answers: (a) True, (b) False, (c) True.