POWER SHARING

Q) What do you mean by Power sharing? State different reasons why power sharing is desirable.

Power sharing is a political arrangement in which different communities, social groups or organs of the government are vested with different responsibilities. It may also be defined as a democratic arrangement in which different communities, opposing groups or social groups participate and form a government and share responsibilities.

The idea of power sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. Earlier it was believed that all powers of government must rest in one person or group of persons located at one place so that decision making process is quick. However in a good democratic government due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. Everyone has a voice in shaping of public policies. Hence it follows that in a democracy political powers should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

Power sharing is desirable for a number of reasons. The reasons can be divided into two groups viz. prudential reasons and moral reasons.

PRUDENTIAL REASONS: Prudential reasons are based on prudence that is careful calculation of gains and losses. The various prudential reasons that favour power sharing are:

- It reduces the possibility of conflict among social groups.
- Since conflicts often lead to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- Imposing the will of majority community over others may look like an attractive option in short term, but in the long run it undermines the unity of nation.
- Suppression of minority also brings ruin to the majority as well.