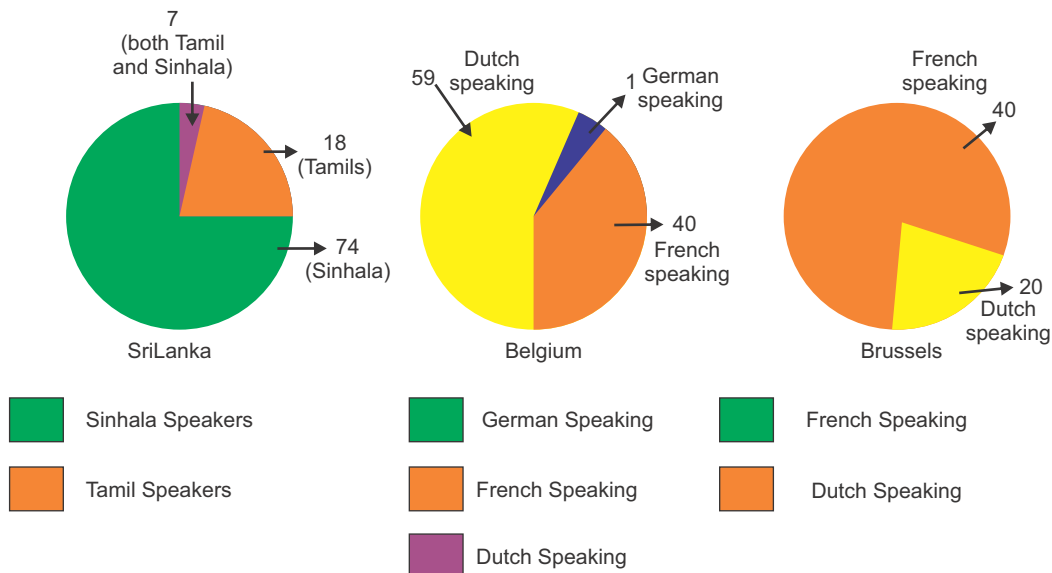
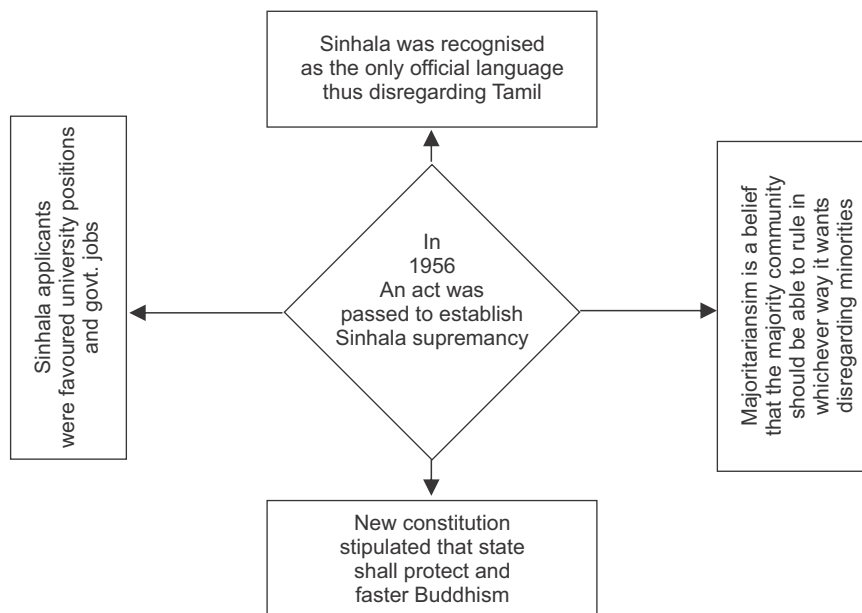


## Democratic Politics-II Chapter-1: Power sharing

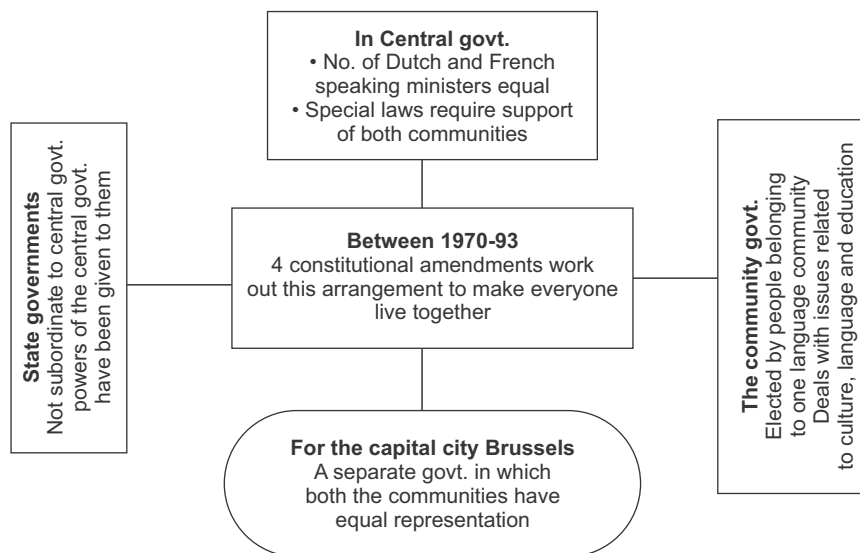
### Belgium and SriLanka:- The ethnic composition



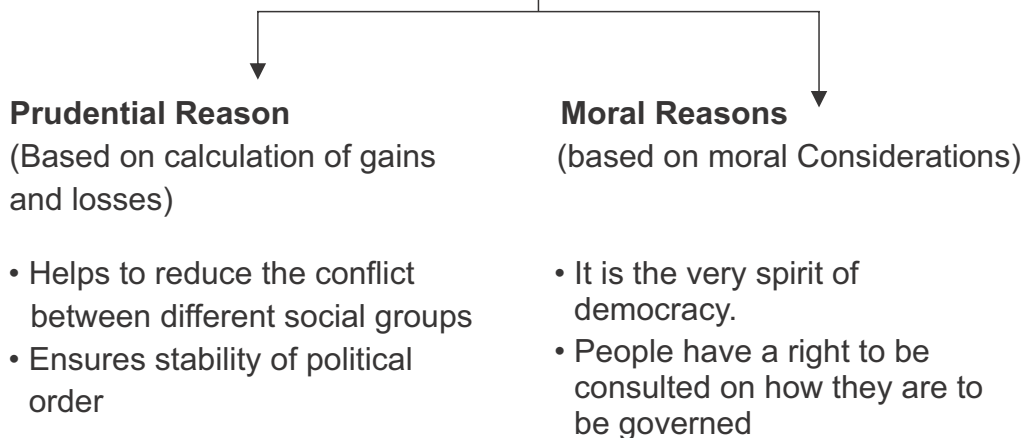
### Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka



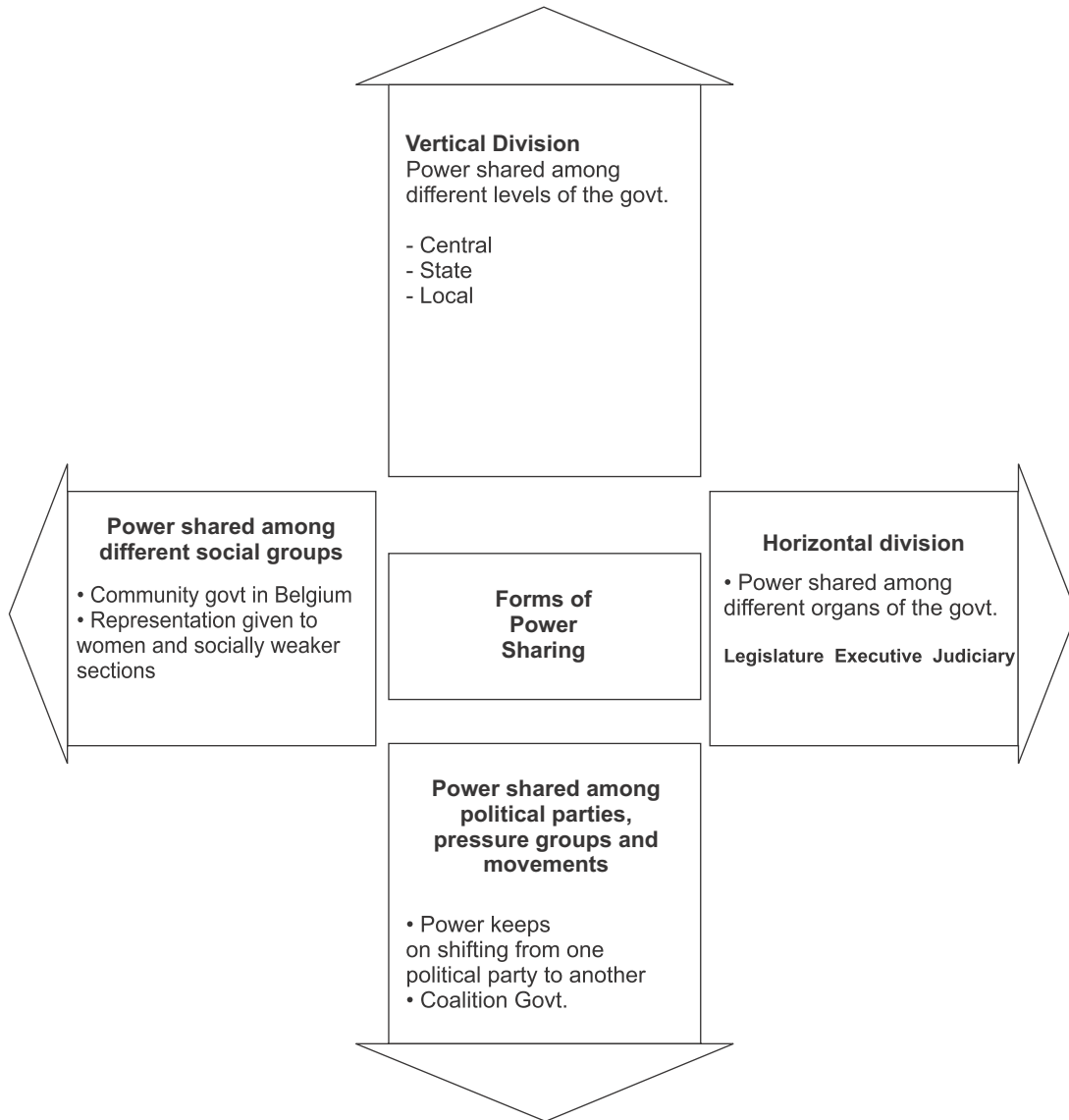
## Accommodation in Belgium



## Why power sharing is desirable



## Forms of Power Sharing



### 1Mark Questions

- Q.1 Give an example of power shared among different social groups?
- Q.2 Which language is mainly spoken in Flemish region of Belgium?
- Q.3 Which community in Belgium is relatively rich and powerful?
- Q.4 Which govt. in Belgium deals with issues related to Education and culture?
- Q.5 Which religion is followed by majority of Sinhala speaking people?
- Q.6 How many amendments have been made in the constitution of Belgium between 1970 and 1993?
- Q.7 Which type of government has been adopted in Srilanka to maintain the dominance of Sinhala community?
- Q.8 Which two main languages are spoken in Belgium?
- Q.9 Which major social group constituted the largest share in population of Srilanka?
- Q.10 Name any two countries with which Belgium share borders.
- Q.11 Which is the official religion of Srilanka ?
- Q.12 What is the main reason for the killing of thousand of Srilanka people and loss of their livelihoods ?
- Q.13 Where is the headquarter of European union?
- Q.14 Which language is spoken by the people of wallonia region of Belgium?
- Q.15 Which language is spoken by 80 of people in Brussels?

### ANSWERS

- |   |                                |                     |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | The community govt. of Belgium | 9 Sinhala           |
| 2 | Dutch                          | 10 France and Luxem |
| 3 | French Speaking                | 11 Buddhism         |
| 4 | Community govt.                | 12 Civil war        |
| 5 | Buddhism                       | 13 Brussels         |
| 6 | Four                           | 14 French           |
| 7 | Majoritarianism                | 15 French           |
| 8 | Dutch and French               |                     |

### 3/5 marks Questions

- Q.1 Why is power sharing desirable? Explain a three forms of powers sharing in modern democracies with example.
- Q.2 Why was the minority French speaking community relatively rich and powerful?
- Q.3 How majoritarianism resulted in social tension in Srilanka?
- Q.4 "Sharing of power makes a country more powerful and united"? Justify the statement.

- Q.5 Highlight any three measures adopted by the Belgium government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities.
- Q.6 Describe any three demands of the Srilanka Tamils. How did they struggle for their demands?
- Q.7 Write down the basic principles of power-sharing.
- Q.8 What do we learn from the two stories of Belgium and Srilanka?
- Q.9 How do pressure groups and interest groups share power in democracy?
- Q.10 What do you mean by system of the 'Checks and balances' in a democracy?

**Answer of 3/5 Marks Questions :-**

1. To reduce the possibility of conflicts between different social groups and ensure political stability power sharing is desirable.

Different forms of power sharing are as under.

- \* Horizontal distribution of power is shared among different organs of government such as Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.
- \* Vertical distribution of power.  
Power can be shared among governments at different levels such as central Govt; state Govt. and Local Govt.
- \* Power may also be shared among different social groups.  
Ex. Religious and linguistic groups, community government in Belgium etc.
- \* Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.

2. In Brussels, the capital of Belgium, the French speaking people are in majority . The power has been into the hands of French people for a longer period and benefitted them for economic development and education. The French speaking population was better read, more qualified and had access to more resources than the native Dutch

- Population . The French were part of an aristocracy of trades man and thus were financially strong.
3. The leader of the Sinhala community dominated the government and adopted a series of majoritarian measures which resulted social tension.
    - \* Sri Lanka became independent in 1948.
    - \* In 1956 an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil.
    - \* Sinhala applicants were favoured for university and government jobs.
    - \* The constitution gives special protection to Buddhism.
    - \* The leaders were insensitive to the language and culture of Tamils.
    - \* Government policies deprived them of equal political rights.
  4. Sharing of power makes a country more powerful and united because of the following reasons :-
    - \* Power sharing ensures that all people have stake in government.
    - \* Power sharing ensures maximum participation. It upholds the concept of people's rule.
    - \* It ensures the political stability in democracy.
    - \* Power sharing accommodates diverse groups.
  5.
    - (i) The constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in central Government. Some special laws require the support of majority of numbers from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
    - (ii) Many powers of central Government have been given to the state governments of the two regions of the country.
    - (iii) The capital of Belgium, Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
  6.
    - (i) The Sri Lankan Tamils demanded the recognition of Tamil as an official language.
    - (ii) They demanded regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
    - (iii) Through the formation of several organisations they demanded an independent Tamil Eelam (State) in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
    - (iv) The Sri Lankan Tamils struggle for their demands by launching political organisation.

7. The basic principles of power sharing are :
- (i) Government of different political parties i.e. a coalition Government.
  - (ii) Protection of minority rights.
  - (iii) Decentralisation of power.
  - (iv) To avoid conflicts
8. We learnt following things from the example of Belgium and Srilanka:-
- (i) In Belgium the leaders realised that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the interests of different communities and religious.
  - (ii) Such a realisation resulted in mutually acceptable arrangements for sharing power. It helped to avoid civic strife between two communities and a possible division of the country.
  - (iii) Srilankan example shows us that if a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refused to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country.
- Ans.9 Pressure groups and interest groups share power with the government indirectly.
- (i) Interest groups such as those of traders businessman industrialists farmers and industrial workers have a direct share in government power through participation in government committees.
  - (ii) They also bring influence on the decision making process of the govt.
- Ans.10 In democratic countries power is shared among different organs of the govt. such as legislature executive and judiciary.
- i. These organs are placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
  - ii. None of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ check the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions for example. Even though ministers exercise power they are responsible to the parliament or state assemblies similarly.
  - iii. Judges are appointed by the executive they can check the functioning of executive and legislature. This arrangement is called system of checks and balances.