

Question: Explain the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) as mentioned in the Indian Constitution.

Answer:

The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) are guiding principles included in the Indian Constitution that direct the government to formulate policies for social and economic welfare.

These principles guide the government in ensuring social, economic, and political justice in the country.

The primary objective of these principles is to establish a welfare state, where every citizen gets equal opportunities, and economic inequality is minimized.

The Directive Principles of State Policy are mentioned in Part-IV of the Indian Constitution, from Articles 36 to 51.

Article 36: Definition of Directive Principles

This article states that the term “State” in the Directive Principles has the same meaning as defined in Article 12 of the Constitution. It includes the government, legislature, state governments, and other governmental bodies.

Article 37: Nature of Directive Principles

This article explains that the Directive Principles are not legally enforceable, but it is the duty of the State to apply these principles while making laws and policies.

Article 38: Ensuring Social Order Based on Justice

The State should create a society where social, economic, and political justice prevails, ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens and reducing economic disparities.

Examples:

Schemes for the poor: The government launched “MGNREGA” (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), which guarantees 100 days of employment for poor citizens.

GST (Goods and Services Tax): A simplified tax system was introduced to ensure small traders and the economically weaker sections can do business without complications.

Article 39: Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Citizens

The State must ensure:

1. Equal access to employment and essential life necessities.
2. Proper distribution of resources to prevent exploitation by any individual or group.
3. Equal pay for men and women.
4. A healthy working environment for laborers.
5. Protection of children from exploitation and ensuring their healthy development.

Examples:

Equal pay for women: In government jobs, men and women receive equal salaries.

Free ration for the poor: Under the “Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana”, free food grains are provided to poor families.

Article 39A: Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid

The government must provide free legal aid to the poor so that they can seek justice.

Article 40: Establishment of Village Panchayats

The State should empower village panchayats to ensure local-level democratic governance.

Examples:

Local decision-making: Village Panchayats manage roads, water supply, and sanitation projects.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Many Panchayats have constructed toilets in villages to promote hygiene.

Article 41: Right to Work, Education, and Public Assistance

The State must support citizens in unemployment, old age, illness, and disability.

Examples:

“Atal Pension Yojana”: Provides pension benefits to workers in the unorganized sector.

“Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana”: Offers free skill training to unemployed youth to improve their employability.

Article 42: Just and Humane Conditions for Workers & Maternity Benefits

The government must ensure safe working conditions and maternity benefits for workers.

Examples:

Maternity Leave: Women in government jobs get 6 months of paid maternity leave.

Safety in Factories & Mines: It is mandatory to provide helmets, gloves, and safety gear in factories and mines.

Article 43: Fair Wages and Living Standards for Workers

The State should create an environment where workers receive fair wages and a decent standard of living.

Article 43A: Participation of Workers in Industry

Workers should have a say in the management of industries to protect their interests.

Article 44: Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

The government should aim to implement a common civil law for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

Examples:

Triple Talaq Law: The government banned instant triple talaq to protect the rights of Muslim women.

Goa's Uniform Civil Code: Goa is the only Indian state where all religions follow the same civil laws for marriage, divorce, and inheritance.

Article 45: Free and Compulsory Education for Children

The government must provide free and compulsory education for all children up to 14 years of age.

Examples:

Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Free meals are provided in government schools to encourage children to attend school.

Saraswati Cycle Yojana: In some states, free bicycles are provided to girls to ensure they continue their education.

Article 46: Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Weaker Sections

The government should promote education and economic development for SCs, STs, and backward classes.

Examples:

Reservation in Jobs & Education: SCs, STs, and OBCs are provided reservations in government jobs and universities.

Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana: A scheme for tribal communities focusing on education, healthcare, and employment.

Article 47: Nutrition and Public Health

The State must take measures to improve public health and nutrition and reduce the consumption of intoxicating substances.

Examples:

Ayushman Bharat Scheme: Provides free medical treatment to poor families.

Liquor Ban: States like Bihar and Gujarat have prohibited alcohol to improve public health.

Article 48: Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

The State should promote modern scientific methods in agriculture and animal husbandry, and prevent cow slaughter.

Examples:

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana: Provides ₹6,000 per year to farmers.

Ban on Cow Slaughter: Several states have enacted laws against cow slaughter.

Article 48A: Environmental Protection

The State must protect forests and wildlife to maintain ecological balance.

Examples:

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: A national campaign for cleanliness and waste management.

Van Mahotsav: Millions of trees are planted every year to preserve the environment.

Article 49: Protection of National Monuments

The government should preserve historical sites and cultural heritage.

Examples:

Protection of Taj Mahal and Qutub Minar: Special laws safeguard India's historic monuments.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI): Responsible for maintaining ancient buildings.

Article 50: Separation of Judiciary and Executive

The Judiciary (Courts) and Executive (Government) must be separate to ensure independent justice.

Examples:

Supreme Court & High Courts are independent: No government official can influence court decisions.

Judges' Appointments: The judiciary independently selects judges without government interference.

Article 51: International Peace and Security

The government should promote peace, friendly relations, and conflict resolution with other nations.

Examples:

India-Nepal Peace Treaty: Strengthening bilateral relations.

India's role in the UN: Sending peacekeeping forces for global security.

Conclusion

The Directive Principles guide the government in framing policies for public welfare. While not legally enforceable, they serve as moral and constitutional guidelines for governance. Over time, several laws have been enacted based on these principles to create a just and equal society.



Sheo Vivek

**Assistant Professor,
Political Science, Shershah
College, Sasaram, District –
Rohtas, Bihar**