

Directive Principles of State Policy

7

MON

Purpose: Part IV of the Constitution lays down the Directive Principles of State Policy. These principles constitute a sort of moral supplement to the fundamental Rights. The idea of incorporating the Directive Principles in the Constitution was borrowed from the Constitution of Ireland. The fundamental rights are negative in character, they only guarantee certain freedom to the citizen against the encroachment by the Government. There is nothing positive in them that may promote material and social welfare of the individual.

Directive Principles:

In order to achieve the aims explained above, the Constitution lays down the following principles to be followed by the State:

(1) all the citizens have the right to an adequate means of livelihood;

(2) the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are to be so distributed as best to subserve the common good;

(3) the operation of economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;

(4) there is to be equal pay for equal work;

(5) the health and strength of workers is not abused, and the citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocation unsuited to their age and strength;

(6) children are given opportunity to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and childhood and youth are protected against moral and material deprivation.

Guidelines:

In addition to the above principles the following guidelines have been laid down:

(1) To ensure equal justice and free legal aid to the poor;

(2) to organize village panchayats as units of village self-government;

(3) to secure to all workers wage for living, decent conditions of work and social and cultural opportunities;

(4) to secure participation of workers in the management of industrial undertakings and establishments;

(5) to secure for the citizens a unified civil code throughout the country;

(6) to provide free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years;

(7) to promote educational interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(8) to raise the standard of nutrition, living and to improve public health;

(9) to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on scientific lines;

(10) to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wild life;

(11) to protect the monuments and places and objects of national importance;

(12) to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services;

(13) to promote international peace and security, to maintain just and honourable relations between nations, to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations and to encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

Important Points to remember

11

(1) The Directive Principles are positive institutions to the legislative and executive authorities to strive for justice - economic, social and political. They are like instruments of instructions or guidelines.

(2) The Directive Principles differ from the fundamental Rights. The latter are justiciable. They can be enforced by the courts of law. The former are non-justiciable.

(3) But it does not mean that Directive Principles have no value. They are a sort of moral supplement to the fundamental Rights. They indicate the lines on which the government should function so as to achieve the ideals of a welfare state.

(4) Directive Principles may be divided into 3 groups:
(i) Those aim to the ideals of social welfare state.
(ii) Those seek to provide the Gandhian way of life.
(iii) Those seek to promote international peace.

