

1. Reforms in bureaucracy may lead to socioeconomic development. Illustrate with examples. (250 Words)

Answer:

- Bureaucracy is expected to play a pivotal role, in process of development. With their emphasis on rules and regulations, division of labour, hierarchy, role specialists, rationality and neutrality, civil services was expected to ensure smooth process of development.
- Bureaucracy in India is considered to have the following characteristics:-
 - a) Too large and slow.
 - b) Extremely rigid and mechanical.
 - c) Consequently not flexible and adaptive to cope with change.
 - d) Not innovative and enterprising.
 - e) Low motivation and low morale.
 - f) Accountability is low.
 - g) Not democratic.
 - h) Lack of expertise.
- These ills of the administration lead to indifference towards the poor, such as secrecy, cumbersome procedures, and unnecessary controls which hampers the socio-economic development of the society.
- Thus a high degree of professionalism needs to be the dominant characteristic of a modern bureaucracy. The fatal failing of the Indian bureaucracy has always been its low level of professional competence.
- This can be brought by Civil Service Reform. It aims at strengthening administrative capacity to perform core government functions. These reforms raise the quality of services to the citizens that are essential to the promotion of sustainable economic and social development.
- It can contribute to macro-economic stabilization by restoring budgetary stability, strengthening revenue collection, managing aid effectively, and improving development performance through proper implementation of investment frameworks and the management of public expenditure plans and programmes.
- The entry and exit of civil servants from public service to private sector and vice versa, will make the civil services jobs more attractive, thus making it a new economy job. This may create the risk of competition feeding into the civil services even more insidiously than it already has. But that will at least help enforce accountability and be beneficial in the long run.
- It is equally important to address demotivating factors like frequent and arbitrary transfers, a poor work environment, decrepit housing and health facilities, as well as special factors affecting women in office and field jobs.
- The policies, priorities, projects, programmes and schemes of the government get a meaningful shape in terms of implementation by bureaucracy only. Therefore, it is not only imperative but inevitable that administration are made simple, effective,

efficient, transparent and accountable. Improving service delivery necessitates a dynamic change in philosophy and practice from:

- a) Administration to management,
- b) Excessive regulation to facilitation,
- c) Administrative-centric governance to citizen-centric governance,
- d) Centralised to decentralised governance,
- e) Expenditure tracking to outcome tracking, and
- f) Viewing citizens as customers rather than as beneficiaries.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Answer the following Questions

1. The informal summit at Wuhan has not managed to achieve much in concrete terms. Critically analyze. (250 words)
2. Discuss the problems faced by rivers in India. Examine the factors behind failure of river rejuvenation programs in India. (250 words)