

Q: Write a précis of the following passage in about 100 words and suggest the title: (20+5)

Some societies have experimented with eliminating the middleman. Prices can certainly be controlled better if the government acts as the middleman, because, after all, goods have to be lifted and transported to the other parts of the country. But governments are not usually very efficient or quick in these matters. Nor are they economical – a lot of file and paperwork involving a lot of people adds up to a lot of indirect expense. Although in theory it ought to be possible to reduce prices by eliminating the middleman, in practice it seems to be an essential evil.

Business can be left to find its own level in accordance with the so-called 'laws' of supply and demand. By and large, Pakistan is what is called a 'seller's market' because essential goods are usually in short supply or are inclined to fall below the needs of an overgrowing population. Market manipulation in such a situation is easy and unfortunately fairly common. Goods usually disappear at about the time they are needed most, leading to price spirals and malpractices. Price control under such circumstances becomes a little unrealistic unless a huge department can be set up with vigilance teams and inspectors empowered to raid shops and warehouses. The effort to control a seller's market is so great and the cost so high that in fact not a great deal of control can be exercised. An alternative method is to encourage the growth of 'buyer's market' in which the customer has a choice between many competing products. Competition automatically forces good quality and low prices on the goods. This is at present only possible in the high production areas of the world. But competition leads to malpractices of a different kind. Survival for a business often depends upon the destruction of competing business and big companies have a natural advantage over small ones. An obsessive drive to 'sell' is generated in such a system. Huge sums are spent on advertising, the costs of which are transferred to the buyer. People are tricked and badgered into buying things they do not really need.

PRÉCIS EXERCISE 11

Title: Supply and Demand of Goods in Market

Governments can keep a check on the prices of goods by taking in account the status of bourgeoisie in the country. But government has proved inept in cutting down the expenses due to impracticable activities. Business makes its way in accordance with the demand and supply.

Pakistan bears seller markets due to monopoly of traders for essential goods. In this situation, there arises a shortage of goods and price hike. It can only be controlled by circumspect institutions and individuals.

These efforts give rise to buyer market in which a buyer will be free in buying goods. Competition among companies will prove beneficial for masses but, sometimes companies also exploit the customers.

Total Words - 110

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"I was a firm believer in democracy, whereas he (D.H. Lawrence) had developed the whole philosophy of Fascism before the politicians had thought of it. "I don't believe", he wrote, "in democratic control. I think the working man is fit to elect governors or overseers for his immediate circumstances, but for no more. You must utterly revise the electorate. The working man shall elect superiors for the things that concern him immediately, nor more. From the other classes, as they rise, shall be elected the higher governors. The thing must culminate in one real head, as every organic thing must— no foolish republics with no foolish presidents, but an elected king, something like Julius Caesar." He, of course, in his imagination, supposed that when a dictatorship was established, he would be the Julius Caesar. This was the part of the dream-like quality of all his thinking. He never let himself bump into reality. He would go into long tirades about how one must proclaim "the truth" to the multitude, and he seemed to have no doubt that multitude would listen. Would he put his political philosophy into a book? No in our corrupt society the written word is always a lie. Would he go in Hyde Park and proclaim "the Truth" from a soap box? No: that would be far too dangerous (odd streaks of prudence emerged in him from time to time). Well, I said, what would you do? At this point he would change the subject.

Gradually I discovered that he had no real wish to make the world better, but only to indulge in eloquent Soliloquy about how bad it was. If anybody heard the soliloquies so much the better, but they were designed at most to produce a little faithful band of disciples who could sit in the deserts of new Mexico and feel holy. All this was conveyed to me in the language of a Fascist dictator as what I must preach, the "must" having thirteen under linings."

(CSS 1978)

Title Lawrence's thoughts about Fascism

In the given passage, the author presents the thoughts of Lawrence who was an advocator of Fascism. He did not believe in democracy. He thought that a vigilant man is enough to select the administrator who should focus on the current problems. He thought that the masses and the ruler should be wise. He was like Julius Caesar when dictatorship came into power. Lawrence was far away from reality. He made speculations about the mighty power and accolade of omnipotent rulers. The author found out the desires of Lawrence who had no practicable plan for the well-being of the world. He was engaged in hollow talks of being a fascist.