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# Comprehension Test Question Bank Exams (IBPS Clerk Pre, IBPS Clerk, SBI Clerk Pre & SBI Clerk)

## Passage No. 51

**Directions:** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

With Lok Sabha speaker Purno Sangma abolishing the discretionary quota for gas and telephone connections enjoyed by members of parliament last week, demands are being made for doing away with the same privilege for Union ministers.

Imposing a fine of Rs. 50 lakh on former petroleum minister Satish Sharma for arbitrarily allotting petrol pumps, the Supreme Court had said last year that absolute discretion was an **anathema** to the Constitution and advised the 'judicious' use of discretionary powers.

Citing the use of the so-called privileges as "prejudicial to public interest and a breach of trust", HD Shourie of Common Cause has sought the prime minister's intervention to "stop this practice of discretionary quota for ministers to present to the public an image of clean functioning of the government."

In a letter written to the Cabinet Secretary, he has drawn the PM's **attention** to the misuse of this **privilege** by more than a dozen ministers. In the railways, discretionary quota covers platform stalls, passes, tickets and berths on trains. In civil aviation and tourism, the **largesse** includes free international air tickets, out-of-turn seats and stalls in ITDC hotels.

### Questions:

**1. The tone of the speaker in the passage is that of**

A. relief    B. concern    C. prohibition    D. caution    E. a disciplinarian

**2. "... he has drawn the PM's attention ....." In this line 'He' refers to**

A. Speaker of the Lok Sabha    B. Supreme Court    C. HD Shourie

D. Ministers    E. Former petroleum minister

**3. A Union minister has not got the power of**

- A. allotting petrol pumps    B. allotting platform stalls    C. allotting berth on trains  
D. allotting telephone connections    E. allotting shops in the market

**4. What did the Supreme Court suggest?**

- A. not to use discretionary power    B. not to allot petrol pump  
C. fair use of quota    D. abolition of quota    E. None of these

**5. “Prejudicial to public interest and a breach of trust” — in this quote prejudicial means**

- A. an opinion formed in the mind beforehand    B. previous suggestion  
C. prehistoric knowledge    D. to instruct previously    E. being harmful

**6. Choose the word which is nearly the same in meaning as the following words as used in the passage.**

**Discretionary**

- A. separate    B. doubt    C. not continuous    D. discretion    E. unrestricted

**7. Choose the word which is nearly the same in meaning as the following words as used in the passage.**

**Privilege**

- A. monopoly    B. immunity    C. secretly    D. clandestine    E. None of these

**8. Choose the word which is nearly the same in meaning as the following words as used in the passage.**

**Largesse**

- A. donation    B. bulky    C. abundant    D. gift    E. ostentatiously

9. Choose the word which is nearly the opposite in meaning of the following words according to the passage.

**Anathema**

A. curse    B. blessing    C. excommunication    D. probe    E. None of these

10. Choose the word which is nearly the opposite in meaning of the following words according to the passage.

**Attention**

A. default    B. forget    C. omit    D. neglect    E. None of these



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**Correct Answers:**

|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>10</b> |
| E        | C        | E        | C        | E        | E        | E        | D        | B        | D         |



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