



## The French Revolution

Q1. Which was the important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789? How did it change the lives of common people? Explain.

Ans. One important law that came into effect soon after the storming of the Bastille in the summer of 1789 was the abolition of censorship. In the Old Regime all written material and cultural activities books, newspapers, plays could be published or performed only after they had been approved by the censors of the king.

This law changed the lives of common people in the following ways:

- i. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.
- ii. Newspapers, pamphlets, books and printed pictures flooded the towns of France from where they travelled rapidly into the countryside.
- iii. They all described and discussed the events and changes taking place in France.
- iv. Freedom of the press also meant that opposing views of events could be expressed.
- v. Plays, songs and festive processions attracted large numbers of people. This was one way they could grasp and identify with ideas such as liberty or justice that political philosophers wrote about.