Q) Discuss the conditions necessary for successful working of a democracy.

Ans: Like any other form of government,democracy also has some few drawbacks and deficiencies. Experience shows that democratic institutions work successfully only in a particular atmosphere.Special atmosphere is needed for the success of democracy.To make democracy a success in any country,the following conditions should be fulfilled:

1. ***Sound system of education:*** For the success of democracy,it is essential for the citizens to be educated. They should have a high level of intelligence and a sound system of education. Education enhances the understanding power of the people and they can think properly about public affairs. It develops their civic sense,political awareness,and also can make proper use of their voting right.The citizens can enhance their mental and physical development through education.
2. ***Eternal vigilance:*** Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and is necessary for protecting democracy.Citizens should remain alert towards their rights and duties. They should take interest in public affairs. According to Bryce,” indolence and indifference on the part of the citizens are the two enemies of democracy.”In the absence of proper vigilance,democracy is liable to be perverted.
3. ***Free,fearless and independent press:*** Press is called the watchdog of democracy. Newspapers provide people information regarding events in different parts of the country. Press should be able to criticize the wrong actions and policies of the government fearlessly. It should be honest and independent. It informs ,enlightens and enables the people to understand the problems of democracy.
4. ***Written Constitution:*** The existence of a written constitution also helps the successful working of democracy. All authorities in the state have to function within the four corners of the constitution. There is no scope for the exercise of arbitrary power. A democratic constitution provides for freedom of speech,assembly,association and safeguards against arbitrary imprisonment. It provides for popular control of the key officials. It provides for a fearless ,independent and impartial judiciary which upholds the rule of law against arbitrary government.
5. ***Well organized party system:*** Modern democracy cannot function without political parties. Political parties form public opinion,fight election,form government ,criticize and oppose the wrong actions of the government. But political parties should be well-organized. Their basis should be political,economic,and social.
6. ***Effective opposition:*** The existence of an effective opposition also helps the successful working of democracy. An effective opposition can emerge when there are two political parties as in Britain. If the ruling party abuse power and acts contrary to democratic principles,the opposition is ready to put a check on it or overthrow it and form its own government in a democratic manner. So the two political parties must strictly follow the rules of the political game.
7. ***Local self-government:*** There should be provision of local self-government institutions and decentralization of power in the country. By working in those local bodies,the people acquire democratic habits and a passion for democracy. Panchayats, municipalities,and Zila Parishads provide citizens training in self-government and create political awakening and make them capable of taking part in national government.
8. ***Tolerance and spirit of unity:*** It is the responsibility of the people to make democracy a success. For this, the spirit of tolerance and unity is needed. In a country like India where we have a number of religions,languages and castes and disparity between the rich and the poor,these qualities are very essential. In times of national crisis , the people must unite together to preserve the freedom of the country with a spirit of devotion and sacrifice.
9. ***Law and order:*** The maintenance of law and order in society by the government is a necessary condition for the success of democracy. Anarchy prevails where government fails to maintain law and order. In such a situation,the people look towards dictatorship in order to get rid of anarchy.
10. ***Strong and vigorous public opinion:***There should be strong and vigorous public opinion. When that is lacking,democracy has the foundations of sand which cannot last long. Hence,utmost emphasis has to be put on creating a strong and sound public opinion which puts the nation first and everything else second.
11. ***Social,political and economic security:*** Economic security is essential for the success of democracy.The people should be given the right to work and it is the duty of the government to provide them with suitable employment. If the government is unable to provide it to the people,it should at least provide them with shelter,clothing and food.

Social security should also be provided.The government should provide social security to the people in case of their being diabled due to old age,illness,accident or any other cause.

For political security,the administration must be efficient.Political security is also essential because people start feeling the necessity of dictatorship,when a democratic government is unable to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the country during foreign invasions.

In conclusion,democracy is both an end and a means as it has a vision of good society .It is based on ideals of liberty,equality ,fraternity and above all dignity.To achieve these ideals,it has also some institutional arrangements . But ,democracy needs some necessary conditions and atmosphere for its successful working.