1. **Question: Discuss the needs and importance of social control in society. (2014)**

**Answer:**

**Introduction**

Society in its nature is heterogamous. The mood of living and life style of all individuals are not same. The attitude, manner, ideas, ideals, religion, cultural choice, customs and traditions, religion etc are different from person to person and also society to society. If every individual are given unrestrained freedom to spend life according to their own choice it will definitely bring social disharmony in society. For an orderly social life social control is very essential. The aim and objective of social control is to establish an orderly society and to bring unity and solidarity among the people. Therefore, the need of social control is very essential. Social control is essential for the following reasons:

**Needs (importance) of Social Control**

1. **To maintain the traditional order:** As social animal the individual try to maintain its old social orders. Though the some modern elements have influenced the traditional social system yet it is human nature which inspires him to maintain it in traditional form. In our society system the head of the family plays a significant role to maintain the values of society. The elder of the family arrange the marriage of other members. They also play a pivotal role in religious matters. Maintenance of these traditional orders is only possible when the behavior of the people is maintained according to the established role of society. Therefore, social control is an essential for society.
2. **To establish social unity and solidarity**: Social control greatly helps to bring unity among the people. Without it, social unity would be a mere dream for society. The attitude, manner, ideas, ideals, religion, cultural choice, customs and traditions, religion etc. of people is not same they differ from person to person and also society to society. If people are given free choice to enjoy these, it will definitely bring disorder and disunity in society. It is social control through which unity in society can be established controlling the behavior of the people. Social control regulates behavior in accordance with established norms. The family as a primary unit of society maintains its unity because its members behave in similar manner in accordance with family norms.
3. **Social control provides social sanction:** There is no doubt that human being is social animal, but, it does not always behave as social and rational animal. There are some instincts which some time lead them to do some unsocial deeds. Some social sanctions are essential and these should be imposed on individuals to control the unsocial activities which are not recognized by the society. Social control provides social sanction to the social ways of behavior. There are many folkways, modes and customs and traditions prevalent in society. Every individual has to follow them. If an individual violets the social norms, he is compelled through social control to observe tham. Thus, social control provides sanction to social norms.
4. **It controls cultural mal-adjustment:** Society and culture are interrelated with each other. But society is changeable and changes come due to impact of some elements. Among them, the development of science and technology is one of the most important one. Social change is natural phenomena. The individuals cannot ignore these changes. As social animal he has to adjust himself with the changes-taking place in society. But some the new changes become a threat to the old culture and all individuals cannot adjust themselves to the new conditions. In society some people are progressive, conservative and some are moderate. So, the new changes also influence differently on different people. In comparison to the people of city the villager face more problems to adjust him with the new changes. He may mislead him in new environment. Therefore, it is social control which checks an individual from cultural mal-practices.
5. **Control individual behavior:** No two men are alike in their attitudes, ideas, interests and habits. Even the children of the same parents do not have the same attitudes, habits and interests. Men believe in different religions, dress differently, eat different food, marry in different ways and have different ideologies. There are so many differences in the ways of living of the people that at every movement there is the possibility of clash between them. In modern times, this possibility has all the more increased because man has become too self-centered. Social control is necessary to protect social interests and satisfy common need. If social control is removed and individual is left to behave freely, society would be reduced to state of jungle.

**Conclusion**

Thus, it is clear from the above mentioned points that social control is very important for society. The need of social control in modern time is greater because of it highly complex characteristics. In modern times different factors are influencing the solidarity of society and for these reasons gradually it has been disintegrating society. So, social control is essential to keep the society intact.