

CHAPTER -4 WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Chapter 4 Working of Institutions

Q1. Why do we need institutions?

Ans. Governing a country involves various activities and therefore requires various institutions.

- Institutions formulate various policies and welfare schemes.
- Institutions implement the decisions which have been taken.
- Institutions are required to solve the disputes between various institutions.
- Modern democracies need institutions such as Prime minister and the Cabinet, Judiciary, Parliament etc.

Q2. What do you understand by executive?

Ans.

- At different levels of any government, we find functionaries who take day-to-day decisions but do not exercise supreme powers on behalf of the people.
- All those functionaries are collectively known as executive.
- They are called executive because they are in charge of the 'execution' of the policies of the government.
- When we talk about 'the government' we usually mean 'executive'.

Q3. What do you understand by Public Interest Litigation?

Ans.

- The citizens have a right to approach the courts to seek remedy in case of any violation of their rights.
- Any one can approach the courts if public interest is hurt by the actions of government. This is called public interest litigation.
- The courts intervene to prevent the misuse of the government's power to make decisions.

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Q4. Who are the Cabinet ministers?

Ans.

- Cabinet Ministers are usually top-level leaders of the ruling party or parties who are in charge of the major ministries.
- Usually the Cabinet Ministers meet to take decisions in the name of the Council of Ministers.
- Cabinet is the inner ring of the Council of Ministers. It comprises about 20 ministers.

Q5. What is the role of president?

Ans.

- The President supervises the overall functioning of all the political institutions in the country so that they operate in harmony to achieve the objectives of the State.
- All government activities take place in the name of the President.
- All laws and major policy decisions of the government are issued in the name of President.
- All major appointments are made in the name of the President. These include the appointment of the Chief Justice of India, the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts of the states, the governors of the states, the Election Commissioners, and ambassadors to other countries, etc.
- All international treaties and agreements are made in the name of the President.
- The President is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India.

Q6. Why does political executive have more powers than the permanent executive?

Ans.

- In a democracy the will of the people is supreme. The political executive is elected by the people and thus empowered to exercise the will of the people on their behalf.
- Political executive is finally answerable to the people.
- That is why the minister takes all the final decisions.
- The minister decides the overall framework and objectives in which decisions on policy should be made.
- The minister is not, and is not expected to be, an expert in the matters of her ministry. The minister takes the advice of experts on all technical matters.

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Q7. What are the functions and powers of the Prime Minister ?

Ans.

- The Constitution does not say very much about the powers of the Prime Minister or the Ministers or their relationship with each other.
- But, as the head of the government, the Prime Minister has wide-ranging powers.
- He/she chairs Cabinet meetings. He/she coordinates the work of different Departments.
- His/her decisions are final in case of any disagreements arise between Departments.
- He/she exercises general supervision of different ministries. All the ministers work under his/her leadership.
- The Prime Minister distributes and redistributes work to the Ministers.
- He/she also has the power to dismiss Ministers. When the Prime Minister quits, the entire ministry quits.
- The Prime Minister controls the Cabinet and Parliament through the party.

Q8. Explain the major powers and functions of the Parliament.

Answer:

- Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country. Parliaments all over the world can make new laws, change existing laws, or abolish existing laws and make new ones in their place.
- Parliaments control all the money that governments have. In most countries the public money can be spent only when the Parliament sanctions it.
- Parliaments all over the world exercise some control over those who run the government. In some countries like India this control is direct and full. Those who run the government can take decisions only so long as they enjoy support of the Parliament.
- Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy in any country. Parliament can seek information about any matter.

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Q9. Give any three responsibilities of the government.

Ans.

- Government collects taxes and uses it for administration, defence and development programmes.
- Government ensures security to the citizens and provides facilities for education and health.
- It formulates and implements several welfare schemes.

Q10. Under what circumstances does the President exercise his discretion in the appointment of the Prime Minister.

Ans.

- If no single party gets a clear majority, a coalition of parties stake their claim to form the government.
- The President has to use his individual judgement and invite such a leader to head the government as Prime Minister, who can provide a stable government to the country.

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