

Revision Notes
Chapter - 3
How the State Government Works

The government works at three levels- national, state and local.

Who is an MLA?

(i) Every state in India has a Legislative Assembly. In states, it is the MLA (Member of Legislature Assembly) who represents the people. The MLAs are elected by the people and they form the government.

- Every MLA is elected from one area. This area is known as his or her constituency.
- A political party whose MLA's win more than half the number of constituencies in the state get majority. The political party is called the ruling party.
- All the other members form the opposition.

(ii) The head of the state is the Governor while the head of the government consists of the council of ministers headed by the Chief Minister.

(iii) After the elections, the MLAs belonging to the ruling party will elect their leader who will become the Chief Minister. The chief minister then selects other people as ministers. After the elections, it is the Governor of the state who appoints the chief minister and other ministers.

(iv) The chief minister and other ministers have the responsibility of running various government departments or ministries. They have separate offices.

A debate in the Legislative Assembly:

(i) In common usage, the word 'government' refers to government departments and various ministers who head them. The overall head is the chief minister. This is called the executive part of the government.

(ii) During debates in the Legislative Assembly, MLAs can express their opinions and ask questions related to the issue or give suggestions about what should be done by the government. Those who wish to, can respond to this. The concerned minister then replies to the questions and tries to assure the Assembly that adequate steps are being taken.

(iii) All the MLAs who gather together (assemble) in the legislative assembly are called the Legislature. They are the ones who authorise and supervise their work.

Working of the government:

(i) The legislative assembly is a place where leaders debate and discuss on important issues and make important bills.

(ii) In addition to legislative assembly, a 'press conference' is also a mode of knowing what the government does for the people.

(iii) The government works through various departments like public works department, agriculture, health and education.

(iv) The government has the power to make new laws for the state regarding health and sanitation. This act of making laws on certain issues is done in the Legislative Assembly of each state. The various government departments then implement these laws. Laws for the entire country are made in the Parliament.