

# Working of Institutions

## Fastrack® Revision

- ▶ Governing a country requires the performance of various tasks such as to take and implement decisions, to see what is wrong and what is right in case of disputes regarding the decision, etc. To attend to all these tasks, several arrangements are made in modern democracies. Such arrangements are called institutions. The Constitution lays down basic rules on the powers and functions of each institution.
- ▶ The important institutions in India are Parliament, Political Executive, the President and the Judiciary.
- ▶ **Parliament** is an assembly of elected representatives and it exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people. The following points are important regarding this institution:

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*The Parliament is the highest forum for debate and discussion on public issues and national policy.*

- ▶ It is the final authority for making laws in the country. This task of legislation is so crucial that it is also referred to as 'Legislature'.
- ▶ Parliaments all over the world exercise some control over those who run the government.
- ▶ Parliaments control monetary power all over the world. Public money can be spent only if the Parliament sanctions it.
- ▶ The powers of our Parliament are divided among two Houses, viz., the Lower House called Lok Sabha or the House of People, and the Upper House called Rajya Sabha or the Council of States.
- ▶ Lok Sabha is elected directly for 5 years whereas Rajya Sabha is a permanent house.
- ▶ Lok Sabha controls the Councils of Ministers through no-confidence motion. If the Lok Sabha calls for 'no-confidence' in the Council of Ministers, all the ministers including the Prime Minister, have to quit.
- ▶ At different levels of any government we find functionaries who take day-to-day decisions on behalf of people. All these functionaries are collectively known as the **executive**. The important points related to executive are as follows:
  - ▶ The executive that is elected by the people for a specific period is called the Political Executive. Political leaders who take big decisions fall in this category.
  - ▶ People appointed on a long-term basis to assist in the governing of a country form the Permanent Executive or is commonly referred to as Civil Services.
- ▶ The **Prime Minister** is the most important political institution of the country. The President appoints the leader of the majority party, or the leader of the coalition of parties that command a majority in the Lok Sabha, as the Prime Minister.
- ▶ After, the Prime Minister is appointed, the President appoints council of ministers, on his advice. The Council of Ministers is an official name for the body that includes all the ministers. It usually has 60 to 80 ministers of the following ranks:

### Knowledge BOOSTER



*Important decisions are usually taken at the Cabinet meetings. Due to this, parliamentary democracy is also known as the Cabinet form of Government.*

- ▶ The **Cabinet Ministers** which are usually the top-level leaders of the ruling party or parties, and are in-charge of the major ministries. The Cabinet Ministers meet to take decisions in the name of the Council of Ministers and is the inner ring of the Council. It comprises of about 20 ministers.
- ▶ The **Ministers of State with Independent Charge** are in-charge of smaller ministries. They participate in the Cabinet meetings only when specially invited.
- ▶ The **Ministers of State** are attached to and are required to assist the Cabinet Ministers.
- ▶ The **President** is the Head of the State. Although all decisions of the government are taken in the name of the President, he is just a titular head of the government. His role can be understood through the following points:
  - ▶ The President is not elected directly by the people. The elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and the elected Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) elect the President.
  - ▶ Any bill which is passed by the Parliament needs the signature of the President to become a law.
  - ▶ All the major orders of the government need the President's assent before they can be enacted.

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*All international treaties are signed in the name of the President.*

- ▶ The President appoints the Chief Justice of India, Chief Justices of the High Courts and Judges of the Lower Courts. He also appoints the Governors of the States, the Election Commissioners, Ambassadors to other countries, etc. All major appointments are made by the President.

President is the supreme commander of the armed forces.

Courts at different levels in a country put together form the **judiciary**. An independent and powerful judiciary is considered essential for democracies. The following are important points related to judiciary:

- India has an integrated judiciary, which is composed of the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts and various local level courts.
- The Supreme Court is the apex court that controls the judicial administration in the country and hence its decision is binding on all other courts of the country.
- The Supreme Court and the High Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution of the country.

They can determine the constitutional validity of any legislation or action of the executive in the country, when it is challenged before them. This is called as the judicial review.

- The independent judiciary's main role is in protecting the Fundamental Rights as enshrined in the Constitution of India.
- The Independence of the judiciary ensures that no government can behave in an autocratic way. Any one can approach the courts if public interest is hurt by the actions of government. This is called Public Interest Litigation. There are many cases in which litigations have been filed on behalf of public against laws enacted by the government.



## Practice Exercise



### Multiple Choice Questions

- Q 1. When was the Second Backward Class Commission appointed?  
a. 1969      b. 1976      c. 1979      d. 1989
- Q 2. Who is the highest formal authority in the country?  
a. Prime Minister      b. President  
c. Auditor General      d. Chief Justice of India
- Q 3. Who is the head of the State?  
a. The President      b. The Prime Minister  
c. Cabinet Ministers      d. Council of Ministers
- Q 4. Who is the head of the Government?  
a. The President      b. The Prime Minister  
c. Cabinet Ministers      d. Council of Ministers
- Q 5. How many members are there in Lok Sabha?  
a. 245      b. 530      c. 545      d. 552
- Q 6. Who holds the most important and powerful position in the government?  
a. Prime Minister      b. President  
c. Auditor General      d. Chief Justice of India
- Q 7. For how long can the Rajya Sabha delay a Money Bill?  
a. 7 days      b. 14 days      c. 15 days      d. 1 Month
- Q 8. What happens when the Prime Minister in India quits?  
a. President will choose any leader as the Prime Minister.  
b. Any leader from the ministry can be chosen as ministry.  
c. The entire ministry quits.  
d. None of the above
- Q 9. If there is a difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, in what way the final decision is taken?  
a. Under the guidance of the President.  
b. Under the guidance of the Prime Minister.  
c. In a joint session of both the houses.  
d. Under the guidance of the speaker of Lok Sabha.

- Q 10. The Prime Minister must have support of a majority of:  
a. Rajya Sabha      b. States  
c. Lok Sabha      d. Cabinet Ministers
- Q 11. Which of the following is called as 'Upper Chamber' of Parliament?  
a. Lok Sabha      b. President's Office  
c. Prime Minister's Office      d. Rajya Sabha
- Q 12. Which of the following is called as 'Lower Chamber' of Parliament?  
a. President's Office      b. Lok Sabha  
c. Prime Minister's Office      d. Rajya Sabha
- Q 13. Any ordinary law needs to be passed by which of the following?  
a. Lok Sabha      b. Cabinet Ministers  
c. Rajya Sabha      d. Both a. and c.
- Q 14. Which of the following political institutions take(s) all important policy decisions?  
a. The Prime Minister      b. The Cabinet  
c. Both a. and b.      d. The Parliament
- Q 15. Study the picture and answer the question that follows:



...s administering the oath of the office of Prime Minister to Shri Narendra Modi?

- a. Ram Nath Kovind
- b. Pranab Mukherjee
- c. Shri Jaipal Reddy
- d. None of the above

Q 16. By whom was the Mandal Commission headed?

- a. V.P. Singh
- b. Janata Dal
- c. B.P. Mandal
- d. Rajiv Gandhi

Q 17. Which body acts as the guardian of Fundamental Rights?

- a. Executive
- b. Supreme Court
- c. Legislature
- d. Election Commission

## Knowledge BOOSTER



The Supreme Court is given the power to interpret the Constitution, declare the law and enforce the principle of and balances prevalent in the Constitution.

Q 18. How can a judge of the Supreme Court be removed?

- a. By the Supreme Court through Impeachment
- b. By the Parliament through Impeachment
- c. By the President alone
- d. None of the above

Q 19. Which of the following institutions can make changes to the existing law of the country?

- a. The Supreme Court
- b. Council of Ministers
- c. The Prime Minister
- d. The Parliament

Q 20. What is the procedure through which judges of the Supreme Court or the High Courts are removed, called?

- a. Coalition
- b. Impeachment
- c. Public Interest Litigation
- d. No-confidence Motion

Q 21. Which one of the following is not a part of Indian Judicial System?

- a. High Courts in the States
- b. The Supreme Court
- c. Village Panchayat
- d. District Courts

Q 22. The decisions of which one of the following courts is binding to all other courts of the country?

- a. District Courts
- b. The High Courts of the States
- c. The Supreme Court
- d. None of the above

Q 23. What is Public Interest Litigation?

- a. Filing a case in the court in the interest of the public.
- b. Procedure of removal of President.
- c. Reviewing of Supreme Court judgements.
- d. None of the above

Q 24. Which organ(s) of the government has/have the power to interpret the Constitution?

- a. Supreme Court
- b. Parliament
- c. High Court
- d. Both a. and c.

Q 25. Who is the Supreme Commander of the defence forces of India?

- a. The Chief Justice
- b. The Prime Minister
- c. The President
- d. All of these

Q 26. Which of the following disputes is/are taken up by the Supreme Court?

- a. Between citizens and government.
- b. Between two or more State governments.
- c. Between governments at the Union and State level.
- d. All of the above

Q 27. Which one of the following is incorrect about the Supreme Court of India?

- a. It is the highest court of appeal in civil and criminal cases.
- b. It cannot take up any dispute between citizenship of the country.
- c. It can hear appeals against the decisions of the High Courts.
- d. None of the above

Q 28. Which House is better placed with regard to control over the executive?

- a. Lok Sabha
- b. Rajya Sabha
- c. Supreme Court
- d. High Court

Q 29. Match the following:

| Column I               | Column II                                                                           |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Parliament          | A. All courts put together.                                                         |
| 2. Political Executive | B. Final authority for making laws.                                                 |
| 3. President           | C. Take day-to-day decisions but do not exercise supreme power on behalf of people. |
| 4. Judiciary           | D. Not elected directly by the people.                                              |

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1 2 3 4    | 1 2 3 4    |
| a. C B D A | b. A B C D |
| c. B C D A | d. B A C D |

Q 30. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): The Parliament can remove the Council of Ministers by passing a vote of no-confidence against them.

Statement (II): The Parliament can exercise control over the Council of Ministers by rejecting any government bill.

- a. Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- b. Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- c. Both statements are incorrect.
- d. Both statements are correct.

Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct option:

Statement (I): The Prime Minister distributes and distributes work to the general public.

Statement (II): The Prime Minister coordinates the work of different departments and his decisions are final in case of disagreements between departments.

- Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect.
- Statement (I) is incorrect and (II) is correct.
- Both statements are incorrect.
- Both statements are correct.



### Assertion & Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q. Nos. 32 to 37):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Q 32. Assertion (A):** India has integrated judiciary, which is composed of the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts and various local level courts.

**Reason (R):** The dependence of judiciary ensures that government can behave in an autocratic manner.

**Q 33. Assertion (A):** The Prime Minister in India is not directly elected by the people.

**Reason (R):** In a Parliamentary democracy, only the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha can become the Prime Minister.

**Q 34. Assertion (A):** A writ is a legal instrument to enforce obedience to the orders of a court.

**Reason (R):** The resolution for impeachment of a judge should be passed only by Lok Sabha.

**Q 35. Assertion (A):** The political executives are elected by the people for a specific period of time.

**Reason (R):** The political executives remain in office even when the ruling party changes.

**Q 36. Assertion (A):** The Prime Minister is the line of communication between the cabinet and the President.

**Reason (R):** The Prime Minister advises the President to summon and prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha.

**Q 37. Assertion (A):** The Supreme Court is the guardian of the Fundamental Rights.

**Reason (R):** A citizen whose Fundamental Rights have been violated by any individual, government or institution, may move to the Supreme Court for the protection of his Fundamental Rights.

### Answers

- (c)
- (b)
- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (c)
- (c)
- (d)
- (b)
- (d)
- (b)
- (c)
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- (b)
- (d)
- (b)
- (c)
- (a)
- (d)
- (c)
- (a)
- (c)
- (c)
- (b)
- (c)
- (a)
- (c)
- (c)
- (b)
- (a)



### Source Based Questions

#### Source 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The Office Memorandum was the culmination of a long chain of events. The Government of India had appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979. It was headed by B.P. Mandal. Hence, it was popularly called the Mandal Commission. It was asked to determine the criteria to identify the socially and educationally backward classes in India and recommend steps to be taken for their advancement. The Commission gave its Report in 1980 and made many recommendations. One of these was that 27 per cent of government jobs be reserved for the socially and educationally backward classes. The Report and recommendations were discussed in the Parliament.

**Q 1. When was Second Backward Classes Commission appointed?**

- 1969
- 1971
- 1979
- 1981

**Q 2. Why was this commission called the Mandal Commission?**

- It was headed by B.P. Mandal.
- It was the highest formal authority appointed by the Government of India.
- Both a. and b.
- None of the above

**Q 3. When did the commission give its report?**

- 1969
- 1971
- 1979
- 1980

**Q 4. Why was Mandal Commission appointed by the Indian Government?**

- To determine the criteria to identify the socially and economically backward classes in India.
- To ensure security to the citizens.
- To see the welfare of all and keep in view the overall objectives.
- All of the above

Q 5. Why did people react strongly on approval of the recommendations of Mandal Commission by Indian government?

a. It affected the lives of people.

b. It affected thousands of job opportunities of the people belonging to general category.

c. It brought inequality among the people of India.

d. It hampered the national unity of India.

Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

**Assertion (A):** According to Mandal Commission, 28 per cent of government jobs are reserved for socially and educationally backward classes.

**Reason (R):** Many parliamentarians and parties kept demanding the implementation of commission's recommendations.

a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

### Answers

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (d)

## Source 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

Since Parliament plays a central role in modern democracies, most large countries divide the role and powers of Parliament in two parts. They are called Chambers or Houses. One House is usually directly elected by the people and exercises the real power on behalf of the people. The second House is usually elected indirectly and performs some special functions. The most common work for the second House is to look after the interests of various states, regions or federal units.

In our country, Parliament consists of two Houses. The two Houses are known as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). The President of India is a part of Parliament, although she is not a member of either House. That is why all laws made in the Houses come into force only after they receive the assent of the President.

Q 1. Which of the following Houses is directly elected by the people and exercises the real power on behalf of the people?

- a. Lok Sabha  
c. Parliament

- b. Rajya Sabha  
d. Cabinet

Q 2. Whose assent is required to be received to enforce all laws made in the Houses?

- a. Prime Minister  
c. Cabinet
- b. President  
d. Political Executive

Q 3. Identify the incorrect statement regarding the financial powers of the Lok Sabha.

- a. It controls the national finances.  
b. It has the power to pass the annual budget of the Union Government for the financial year.  
c. Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters.  
d. It cannot reject a Money Bill but can only make recommendations for changes in the Bill.

Q 4. Which of the following looks after the interests of various states, regions or federal units?

- a. Lok Sabha  
c. Parliament
- b. Rajya Sabha  
d. Permanent Executive

Q 5. Why is the view of Lok Sabha becomes important in case of any conflict?

- a. It controls the Council of Ministers.  
b. It has large number of members.  
c. It is more powerful than Rajya Sabha.  
d. It exercises the real power on behalf of the people.

Q 6. There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:

**Assertion (A):** The members of the Lok Sabha are nominated by the President.

**Reason (R):** It can be dissolved before the expiry of the tenure.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).  
c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

### Answers

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (d)

## Source 3

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow:

The President is not elected directly by the people. The elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) elect her. A candidate standing for President's post has to get a majority of votes to win the election. This ensures that the President can be seen to represent the entire nation. At the same time the President can never claim the kind of direct popular mandate that the Prime Minister

n. This ensures that she remains only a nominal executive.

The same is true of the powers of the President. If you casually read the Constitution you would think that there is nothing that she cannot do. All governmental activities take place in the name of the President.

**Q 1. Who elects the President?**

**Ans.** The President is not elected directly by the people but by the elected Members of Parliaments (MPs) and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

**Q 2. How can it be said that the President remains only a nominal executive?**

**Ans.** The President remains only a nominal executive because of the following reasons:

- (i) He represents the entire nation.
- (ii) He can never claim the kind of direct popular mandate that the Prime Minister can.

**Q 3. What are the activities performed in the name of the President?**

**Ans.** The President can perform the following activities in his name:

- (i) All governmental activities take place in his name.
- (ii) All laws and major policy decisions of the government are issued in her name.
- (iii) All major appointments are made in the name of the President such as that of Chief Justice of India, the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts of the states, the Governors of the States etc.



## Very Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. Name any three institutions responsible to run the democratic government in India.**

**Ans.** The three institutions are:  
(i) The Prime Minister and the Cabinet.  
(ii) The Civil Servants.  
(iii) The Supreme Court.

**Q 2. What is a Parliament?**

**Ans.** It is the supreme law making body of India.

**Q 3. What are the three main institutions in a Parliamentary democracy?**

**Ans.** The three main institutions in a Parliamentary democracy are:  
(i) Legislature, (ii) Executive, (iii) Judiciary.

**Q 4. Name the two Houses of the Parliament.**

**Ans.** The two Houses of the Parliament are:  
(i) Lok Sabha, (ii) Rajya Sabha.

**Q 5. In which matter does the Lok Sabha exercise more powers?**

**Ans.** The Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters.

**Q 6. By how many days can the Rajya Sabha delay the Money Bill?**

**Ans.** The Rajya Sabha can delay the Money Bill by 14 days.

**Q 7. Who is the Prime Minister?**

**Ans.** Prime Minister is the Head of the Government and actually exercises all governmental powers. He takes most of the decisions in the Cabinet meetings.

**Q 8. Who is the most powerful person within the Cabinet?**

**Ans.** The Prime Minister is the most powerful person within the Cabinet.

**Q 9. Who is the head of the state and who is the head of the government in our country?**

**Ans.** Head of State—President.  
Head of Government—Prime Minister.

**Q 10. Which house is referred to as 'permanent house'?**

**Ans.** Rajya Sabha is referred to as 'permanent house'.

**Q 11. Who chairs the Cabinet meetings?**

**Ans.** The Prime Minister chairs the Cabinet meetings.

**Q 12. Who appoints the Prime Minister?**

**Ans.** The Prime Minister is appointed by the President.

**Q 13. What is the Council of Ministers?**

**Ans.** The Council of Ministers is the official name for the body that includes all the ministers. It generally has 60 to 80 ministers of different ranks.

**Q 14. Who are Cabinet Ministers?**

**Ans.** Cabinet Ministers are usually the top-level leaders of the ruling party or parties, who are in-charge of the major ministries like Defence, Railway, Foreign Affairs, etc. Normally, all the major decisions are taken by these ministers.

**Q 15. What is a Coalition Government?**

**Ans.** A government formed by an alliance of two or more political parties, usually when no single party enjoys majority support of the members in a legislature is referred to as the Coalition Government.

**Q 16. What is the role of the President in India?**

**Ans.** The President is the Executive Head of the State and is the highest formal authority in the country.

**Q 17. Who is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India?**

**Ans.** The President is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India.

**Q 18. What is called as 'the judiciary'?**

**Ans.** All the courts at different levels in a country are together called, 'the judiciary'.

**Q 19. Name the institution where disputes between citizens and the government are finally settled.**

**Ans.** The Supreme Court is the institution where disputes between citizens and the government are finally settled.

on any two functions of the Supreme Court of

two functions are:

The Supreme Court of India acts as the guardian of the Constitution.

(ii) It decides on disputes between state governments.

**Q 21. What is the tenure of a judge of the Supreme Court?**

**Ans.** The judges of the Supreme Court of India remain in office till they retire after having completed the age of 65 years.

**Q 22. Who appoints the Chief Justice of India?**

**Ans.** The President of India appoints the Chief Justice of India.

**Q 23. Who appoints the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts?**

**Ans.** The judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister and in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

**Q 24. What is Impeachment?**

**Ans.** Impeachment is a procedure through which judges of the Supreme Court or the High Courts are removed.

**Q 25. What is the procedure for the removal of Judges of the Supreme Court?**

**Ans.** A Judge can be removed by the President on the grounds of 'proved misbehaviour or incapacity' but the resolution for his impeachment should be passed by both the Houses.

**Q 26. When did the Government of India appoint the Second Backward Classes Commission? Who was its head?**

**Ans.** The Government of India appointed the Second Backward Commission in 1979. It was headed by B.P. Mandal and hence, was known as the Mandal Commission.

**Q 27. Study the picture and answer the question that follows:**



**What does the above picture depict?**

**Ans.** The above picture depicts the dominance of Indira Gandhi in the government in the early 1970s.

**Q 28. Why did people react strongly when the recommendations of Mandal Commission were approved by the Government of India?**

**Ans.** People reacted strongly because this decision of the Government of India affected thousands of job opportunities of the people belonging to general category.

**Q 29. When government officers work in election duty, are they under the control of the Election Commission or the government? Give reason.**

**Ans.** They work under the control of Election Commission. This is done to conduct free and fair elections, so that the party in power is not in a position to misuse the government machinery.



## **Short Answer Type Questions** ➤

**Q 1. State any three features of Office Memorandum.**

**Ans.** The following are the three features of Office Memorandum:

- (i) It has a number and date.
- (ii) It is like an ordinary circular but possesses the power of government enforcement behind it.
- (iii) The government issues hundreds of office Memorandums everyday on different matters.

**Q 2. Why was the Mandal Commission appointed by the Indian Government?**

**Ans.** The Government of India had appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979. It was headed by B.P. Mandal. Hence, it was popularly called the Mandal Commission. It was appointed to determine the criteria to identify the socially and economically backward classes in India and recommend steps to be taken for their advancement.

**Q 3. Enumerate the activities involved in governing a country.**

**Ans.** Governing a country involves various activities, some of the important ones are as follows:

- (i) To ensure security of the citizens.
- (ii) To provide facilities for education and health to all.
- (iii) To collect taxes and spend the money raised on administration, defence and development programmes.
- (iv) To formulate and implement welfare schemes.

**Q 4. Mention any three measures through which Parliament exercises control over the Council of Ministers.**

**Ans.** Three measures by which Parliament can exercise control over the Council of Ministers are as follows:

- (i) The Parliament can remove the Council of Ministers by passing a vote of no-confidence against them.

- i) The Parliament can exercise control over the Council of Ministers by rejecting any government bill.
- ii) The Parliament can exercise control over the Council of Ministers by Adjournment Motion.

## Knowledge BOOSTER



*Adjournment Motion is the procedure for adjournment of the business of the Parliament for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.*

**Q 5. In what ways does the Lok Sabha exercise more powers than the Rajya Sabha?**

**Ans.** Lok Sabha exercises more powers than the Rajya Sabha in the following manner:

- (i) Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the Houses. But if there is a difference of opinion between the two Houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session. However, since the number of members in the Lok Sabha is more, their view or decision is more likely to prevail.
- (ii) The Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters. Once the Lok Sabha passes the budget of the government or any other money related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it. The Rajya Sabha can delay it only by 14 days or can suggest changes in it. The Lok Sabha may or may not accept the changes.
- (iii) The Lok Sabha controls the Council of Ministers. If the majority of the Lok Sabha members say that they have 'no-confidence' in the Council of Ministers, all the ministers including the Prime Minister, have to quit. The Rajya Sabha does not have these powers.

**Q 6. Explain the legislative powers of the Lok Sabha.**

**Ans.** The legislative powers of the Lok Sabha are:

- (i) The Lok Sabha controls the national finances. It has the power to pass the annual budget of the Union Government for the financial year.
- (ii) The elected members of both the Houses of the Parliament along with members of the States Legislative Assemblies constitute the Electoral college to elect the President of India. The Vice-President of India is elected by MPs of both the Houses. The Lok Sabha also elects its Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- (iii) The President may issue an ordinance during the recess of the Parliament which must be approved by both the Houses of the Parliament when they reassemble. The ordinance ceases to operate six weeks after the re-assembly of the Parliament unless approved by the latter earlier.

**Q 7. Write a short note on no-confidence motion.**

**Ans.** The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. It remains in office as long as it enjoys the confidence of the Lok Sabha. Sometimes

the opposition parties in the Parliament feel that the government has lost majority in the Lok Sabha as its policies are opposed to public interest and are unpopular. In that case, they can introduce a no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers. If the majority in the Lok Sabha votes against the motion, the government stays. If the majority votes for the motion, the government has to resign.

**Q 8. Name the ranks of ministers which are a part of the Council of Ministers.**

**OR**

**Explain the composition of Council of Ministers.**

**Ans.** The Council of Ministers is an official name for the body that includes all the ministers. It usually has of 60 to 80 ministers of the following ranks:

- (i) **Cabinet Ministers:** They are usually the top-level leaders of the ruling party or parties, and are in-charge of the major ministries. The Cabinet Ministers meet to take decisions in the name of the Council of Ministers and is the inner ring of the Council. It comprises of about 20 ministers.
- (ii) **Ministers of State with Independent Charge:** They are in-charge of smaller ministries. They participate in the Cabinet meetings only when specially invited.
- (iii) **Ministers of State:** They are attached to and are required to assist the Cabinet Ministers.

**Q 9. Why does the Political Executive has more power than the Permanent Executive?**

**Ans.** Political Executive is elected by the people and has more power than the Permanent Executive because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) In a democracy, the will of the people is supreme and the Political Executive, being elected by the people, is empowered to exercise the will of the people on their behalf.
- (ii) The Political Executive is answerable to the people for all the consequences of its decisions.
- (iii) Non-political Executive is an expert in its field but Political Executive has to ensure the welfare of all and keep in view the overall objectives.

**Q 10. What are the characteristics of permanent executive?**

**Ans.** The following are the characteristics of permanent executive:

- (i) Persons working in Permanent Executive are called Civil Servants.
- (ii) It works under Political Executive and assist them in carrying out the day-to-day administration.
- (iii) It remains in office even when the ruling party changes.
- (iv) The persons working in Permanent Executive are highly educated and have expert knowledge about the department in which he works.

differentiate between the Political Executives and Permanent Executives.

The difference between the Political Executives and the Permanent Executives are:

| S. No. | Basis of Difference | Political Executives                                                                                    | Permanent Executives                                                                         |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (i)    | Period              | Executives who are elected by the people for a specific period are called the Political Executives.     | The Permanent Executives are salaried Civil Servants who are appointed on a long-term basis. |
| (ii)   | Authority           | They remain in power only so long as they command the confidence of the majority Members of Parliament. | They remain in power even when the ruling party changes. Their tenure of office is fixed.    |
| (iii)  | Answerable or not   | They are answerable to people for all the consequences of their decisions.                              | They are not answerable to the people.                                                       |
| (iv)   | Examples            | Political leaders like the Prime Minister, Council of Ministers and so on.                              | Persons working in Civil Services. For example, IAS, IPS, etc.                               |

**Q 12. 'The Prime Minister is the real executive head of our country.' Elucidate.**

**Ans.** The Prime Minister is the real executive head of our country and this can be elucidated with the help of the following points:

- The Prime Minister controls the Cabinet and the Parliament.
- Power is concentrated in the hands of the Prime Minister.
- The President, also takes decision as per the advice of the Prime Minister.

### COMMON ERROR

Students mention the role of Prime Minister as a general only but it has to be mentioned in the context of coalition government.

**Q 13. How is the President of India elected?**

**Ans.** The President of India is not elected directly by the people. All the Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) elect him. A candidate standing for the post of President has to get majority of votes to win the election.

**Q 14. Explain the limitations on the powers of the President.**

**Ans.** The powers of the President are subject to the following limitations:

- The President exercises all his powers only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- The President can ask the Council of Ministers to reconsider their decision. But if the same decision is given again, he/she is bound to accept it.
- Similarly, a bill passed by the Parliament becomes a law only after the President gives assent to it. If the President wants, he/she can send the bill back to the Parliament for reconsideration. But if the Parliament passes the bill again, he/she has to sign it.

**Q 15. How does the Presidential Powers differ between India and America?**

**Ans.** The following differences are observed in the Presidential powers in India and America:

| S. No. | Basis of Difference        | Presidential Powers in India                     | Presidential Powers in America                        |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| (i)    | Status                     | President is only the nominal head.              | President is the real head.                           |
| (ii)   | Power to veto              | He does not possess the power to veto.           | He possesses the power to veto.                       |
| (iii)  | Power to appoint ministers | He does not have the power to appoint ministers. | He personally chooses and appoints all the ministers. |



### Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. Why is there a need for political institutions?**

**Ans.** Political institutions are needed because of the below mentioned reasons:

- Countries need political institutions to take decisions regarding the welfare of the people.
- The decisions which have been taken are to be implemented in a rightful way. So, countries need institutions to implement the decisions.
- Institutions are also needed to solve the disputes between various institutional bodies.
- Institutions help the government to take the right decisions.
- Institutions follow a proper procedure to take decisions, thereby ensuring that a proper decision is taken.

### Why do we need a Parliament?

Parliament is needed because of the below mentioned reasons:

- (i) It is the final authority for making laws in the country. Parliaments all over the world make new laws and change or abolish existing laws.
- (ii) Parliaments all over the world exercise some control over those who run the government. In India, this control is direct and full.
- (iii) Parliaments control monetary power all over the world. In most of the countries, public money can be spent only if the Parliament sanctions it.
- (iv) Parliament is the highest forum for debate and discussion on public issues and national policy in a country. Parliament can seek information about any matter.

### Q 3. Explain the major powers and functions of the Prime Minister.

Ans. The major powers and functions of the Prime Minister are as under:

- (i) **Chairman of the Cabinet** : The Prime Minister presides over the meetings of the Cabinet and takes most of its decisions. The agenda of Cabinet meetings is also prepared by the Prime Minister.
- (ii) **Link between the President and the Cabinet** : It is the duty of the Prime Minister to communicate to the President about all decisions of the Council of Ministers. He is also required to supply to the President such information as he may seek.
- (iii) **Coordination** : The Prime Minister coordinates the work of different departments and his decisions are final in case of disagreements between departments.
- (iv) **General Supervision** : The Prime Minister exercises general supervision of different ministries and all ministers work under his leadership. He is even free to choose ministers as long as they are members of Parliament.
- (v) **Distribution of Work** : The Prime Minister distributes and redistributes work to the ministers. He also has the power to dismiss ministers. The entire ministry has to quit if he quits.

### Q 4. Explain the major powers and functions of the President.

Ans. The major powers and functions of the President are as follows:

- (i) The President is the head of the state. All government activities take place in his name. All laws and major policy decisions of the government are issued in his name.
- (ii) He appoints the Prime Minister and on his advice, he appoints the other ministers in the Council of Ministers. He administers the oath of office to them.
- (iii) He is responsible for other major appointments such as those of the Chief Justice of India, the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High

Courts of the states, the Governors of the states, the Election Commissioners, the Ambassadors to other countries, etc.

- (iv) He summons both the Houses of the Parliament to session. He directs a joint session of both the Houses to be held. He can also prorogue the Parliament.
- (v) All international treaties and agreements are made in his name. The President is the Supreme Commander of the defence forces of India.
- (vi) The President has emergency powers, i.e., powers to deal with an unexpected and critical situation such as power to declare emergency or President's rule and issuing an ordinance.

### Q 5. Who appoint the Council of Ministers? What are the differences between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha?

Ans. After the appointment of the Prime Minister, the President appoints the Ministers of the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister. The ministers are usually from the party or the coalition that has the majority in the Lok Sabha. In other words, the President appoints the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The difference between Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are:

| S.No. | Basis of Difference    | Lok Sabha                                                                                       | Rajya Sabha                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (i)   | Appointment of members | The members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people.                                | The members of the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by the members of the Legislative Assemblies.                                             |
| (ii)  | Strength               | The strength of Lok Sabha is 552 out of which 2 members are nominated by the President.         | The Rajya Sabha can have a maximum of 250 members, out of which 12 are nominated by the President.                                              |
| (iii) | Tenure                 | The tenure of Lok Sabha is 5 years. The House can be dissolved before the expiry of the tenure. | The tenure of Rajya Sabha members is 6 years but one-third members retire after every 2 years. It cannot be dissolved, it is a permanent House. |

|                                                      |                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Money Bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha. | The Rajya Sabha does not exercise much power over Money Bills. |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|



## TIP

Give the difference in tabular form and not in points so as to gain marks.

**Q 6. Explain briefly the powers and functions of the Supreme Court.**

**Ans.** The powers and functions of the Supreme Court are as follows:

- The Supreme Court can take up disputes between the governments; citizens; citizens and the government; and the governments at the union and state level.
- Supreme Court hears appeals against the High Court decisions both in criminal and civil cases.
- Supreme Court is the guardian of our Constitution. It has the power to interpret the Constitution of the country.
- The Supreme Court gives legal advice to the President of India on any legal or constitutional matter referred to it.
- The powers and independence of judiciary allows it to act as the guardian of Fundamental Rights too.



## Chapter Test

### Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following institutions can make changes to the existing law of the country?
  - The Supreme Court
  - The President
  - The Prime Minister
  - The Parliament
- If there is a difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, in what way the final decision is taken?
  - Under the guidance of the President
  - Under the guidance of the Prime Minister
  - In a joint session of both the Houses
  - Under the guidance of the Speaker of Lok Sabha
- Which of these option(s) is/are incorrect regarding the powers of the Prime Minister?
  - He chairs the cabinet meetings.
  - He distributes work to the different departments.
  - He can summon joint sitting of the both Houses of Parliament.
  - He can dismiss ministers.
- What is the procedure through which judges of the Supreme Court or the High Courts are removed, called?
  - Coalition
  - Impeachment
  - Public Interest Litigation
  - No-confidence motion
- Which one of the following is incorrect about the Supreme Court of India?
  - It is the highest court of appeal in civil and criminal cases.
  - It cannot take up any dispute between citizenship of the country.
  - It can hear appeals against the decisions of the High Courts.
  - None of the above

### Assertion and Reason Type Questions

**Directions (Q. Nos. 6-7):** In the following questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
  - Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
  - Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
  - Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
- Q 6. Assertion (A):** President appoints the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts on the advice of the PM in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
- Reason (R):** Parliament can amend the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Q 7. Assertion (A):** The Supreme Court is the guardian of the Fundamental Rights.
- Reason (R):** A citizen whose fundamental rights have been violated by any individual, government or institution, may move the Supreme Court for the protection of his Fundamental Rights.

### Source Based Question

- Q 8.** Read the source given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option.
- 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 head of the government, the Prime Minister has wide ranging powers. He chairs Cabinet meetings. He coordinates the work of different departments.

decisions are final in case disagreements arise between departments. He exercises general supervision of different ministries. All ministers work under his leadership. The Prime Minister distributes and redistributes work to the ministers. He also has the power to dismiss ministers. When the Prime Minister quits, the entire ministry quits.

Thus, if the Cabinet is the most powerful institution in India, within the Cabinet it is the Prime Minister who is the most powerful. The powers of the Prime Minister in all parliamentary democracies of the world have increased so much in recent decades that parliamentary democracies are some times seen as Prime Ministerial form of government.

**(i) Who is the head of the government and actually exercises all the government powers?**

- a. The Prime Minister      b. The President
- c. The Parliament      d. The Lok Sabha

**(ii) In which of the following cases, the President appoints the person most likely to secure a majority support?**

- a. If he wants to dismiss a minister.
- b. If no single party gets a majority.
- c. If he has 'no-confidence' in the Council of Ministers.
- d. If he is not satisfied by the decisions of the coalition party.

**(iii) Why is the Prime Minister in India not directly elected by the people?**

- a. There is no need for it as the Prime Minister is appointed by the President.
- b. Direct election of the Prime Minister will involve lot of expenditure on election.
- c. Only the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha can become the Prime Minister in a Parliamentary democracy.
- d. Lok Sabha can remove the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers even before the expiry of their term.

**(iv) The Prime Minister must have support of a majority of:**

- a. Lok Sabha      b. Rajya Sabha
- c. States      d. Cabinet Ministers

**(v) How are parliamentary democracies seen in recent decades?**

- a. As Parliamentary form of government
- b. As Presidential form of government
- c. As Prime Ministerial form of government
- d. As coalition form of government

**(vi) There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read them and choose the correct option:**

**Assertion (A):** The Prime Minister cannot act and take decisions all by himself or become a dictator.

**Reason (R):** The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party.

- a. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- b. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- c. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- d. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Very Short Answer Type Question**

**Q 9. Who appoints the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts?**

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**Q 10. Mention any three measures through which Parliament exercises control over the Council of Ministers.**

**Q 11. Distinguish between the political executives and the permanent executives.**

**Q 12. What is the composition of the Council of Ministers? How is the 'Cabinet' different from the 'Council of Ministers'?**

**Long Answer Type Questions**

**Q 13. Explain the major powers and functions of the Prime Minister.**

**Q 14. What do you mean by the independence of judiciary? How can it be justified?**