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Class 9 Political Sci. Notes

Working of Institutions

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

CHAPTER 4

Working of Institutions

Points to Remember:

- In a democracy the representatives have to follow some rules and procedures because they have to work with and within institutions.
- Legislature, executive and judiciary play a key role in major decisions.
- President is the **head of the state** and is the highest formal authority in the country.
- Prime Minister is the **head of the government** and actually exercises all governmental powers. He takes most of the decisions in the Cabinet meetings.
- **Parliament consists of the President and two Houses**, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- **The Mandal Commission:**
 - (a) The Government of India had appointed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979. It was headed by Sh. B.P. Mandal.
 - (b) It was asked the Mandal Commission to determine the criteria to identify the socially and educationally backward classes in India and recommend steps to be taken for their advancement.
 - (c) One of the main recommendation of the commission was that 27 per cent of government jobs be reserved for the socially and educationally backward classes.
- **The Parliament: Legislature**

In all democracies, an assembly of elected representatives exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people. In India such a national assembly of elected representatives is called Parliament. At the state level this is called Legislature or **Legislative Assembly**.

Parliament consists of the President and two Houses, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

- **Lok Sabha versus Rajya Sabha: A comparison**

Features	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
Chamber/House	Lower Chamber/House	Upper Chamber/House
Total members	545	250
Elections	Directly elected by people	Elected by the MLAs
Tenure (in Years)	05	06 (every two years election are held for 1/3rd seats)
Dissolution	Dissolved in every 5 years.	Permanent, Cannot be dissolved
Nomination of members	02 members are nominated by the president of India from Anglo-Indian community	12 members are nominated by the President from literature, science art, and social service

- **Need for a Parliament:**

- (i) Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country.
- (ii) Parliament controls those who run the government. The government can take decisions so long as they enjoy support of the Parliament.
- (iii) Parliament controls all the money that government has.
- (iv) Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policies in any country.

- **Lok Sabha Versus Rajya Sabha: Comparison of Powers**

- (a) Any ordinary law has to be passed by both the Houses. But if there is difference between the Houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session. Owing to the larger number, the view of the Lok Sabha is likely to prevail.

- (b) Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters. The Rajya Sabha can suggest changes in such matters but the Lok Sabha has the final say in these matters.
- (c) The Lok Sabha controls the Council of Ministers. The government has to quit if they lose the confidence of the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha does not have this power.

- **Executive: Political and Permanent**

At different level of the government, there are some functionaries who take day-to-day decisions. All those functionaries are collectively known as the executive. They are called executive because they are in charge of the 'execution' of the policies of the government. Thus, when we talk about 'the government' we usually mean the executive.

Further, executive is classified in two categories- (a) Political executive and, (b) Permanent executive.

The Political executive is elected by the people for specific periods (e.g.- 5 years). Ministers fall in this category.

There are some people to assist the political executive in carrying out day-to-day administration. They are appointed for a long period of time. This is called **permanent executive or civil services**.

- **The President appoints the Prime Minister** and on the advice of the Prime Minister other ministers are appointed by the President.
- **The ministers should be the member of Parliament.** A person who is not the member of the Parliament can become the Minister but he has to get elected to one of the houses within six months.
- **The Council of Ministers**
The Council of Minister is the official name for the body that includes all the ministers. It includes following three types of ministers:
 - (i) **Cabinet Ministers:** About 20 top-level ministers who are in charge of the major ministries.
 - (ii) **Ministers of State with independent charge:** They are usually in-charge of small Ministries.

- (iii) **Ministers of State:** They are attached to and required to assist Cabinet Ministers.
- The parliamentary democracy is often called the **Cabinet form of government** because most of the important decisions are taken in Cabinet meetings.
- **Collective Responsibility:** The ministers may have different views and opinions, but everyone has to own up to every decision of the Cabinet.
- While the Prime Minister is the head of the government, the President is the head of the State.
- **Powers and functions of the Prime Minister**
 - (i) Head of the government.
 - (ii) Ministers are appointed on advice of the Prime Minister.
 - (iii) Distribution and redistribution of work to the ministers.
 - (iv) He can dismiss the ministers.
 - (v) He chairs Cabinet meetings.
 - (vi) He coordinates the work of different Department. His decisions are final in case disagreements arise between Departments.
 - (vii) Leader of the house.
 - (viii) Represents the country on foreign tours.
- **Prime Ministerial form of government:** If Cabinet is the most powerful institution; within the Cabinet it is the Prime Minister who is the most powerful. The Prime Minister commands so much power in parliamentary democracy that parliamentary democracy is sometimes seen as Prime Ministerial form of government.
- **Election of the President:** The President is not directly elected by the people. The elected Members of Parliament (MPs) and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) elect the president.
- **Powers and Functions of the President of India:**
 - (i) All major appointments are made in the name of the President. These include the appointment of the Chief Justice & Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts of the states, the Governors of the states, the Election Commissioners, ambassadors to other countries, etc.

- (ii) All international treaties and agreements are made in the name of the President.
 - (iii) The President is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India.
 - (iv) All laws and major policy decisions of the government are issued in the name of the President.
 - (v) A bill passed by the Parliament becomes a law only after the President gives assent to it.
 - (vi) The President appoints the Prime Minister and other ministers on advice of the Prime Minister.
- **Indian Judiciary:** The Indian Judiciary consists of a Supreme Court for the entire nation, High Courts in the states, District Courts and the courts at the local level.
 - **Integrated Judiciary:** India has an integrated judiciary. It means the Supreme Court controls the judicial administration in the country. Its decisions are binding on all other courts of the country.
 - **Judicial Review:** The Supreme Court of India and the High Courts can determine the constitutional validity of any legislation or action of the executive in the country, whether at the Union level or at the state level, when it is challenged before them. This is known as the judicial review.
 - **Public interest litigation (PIL):** The courts can give judgments and directive to protect public interest. Anyone can approach the courts if public interest is hurt by the actions of government. This is called public interest litigation.
 - **Independence of Judiciary:**

An independent and powerful judiciary is considered essential for democracies. Independence of judiciary means that it is not under the control of the legislature or the executive. Indian judiciary is considered independent owing to the following reasons:
- (i) 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. In practice it means that the senior judges of the Supreme Court select the new judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts and there is very little scope for interference by the political executive.

- (ii) A judge can be removed only by an impeachment motion passed separately by two-thirds members of the two Houses of the Parliament.
- (iii) The salary and allowances of the judges cannot be decreased except emergency.
- (iv) The courts in India have the power of judicial review. They can declare invalid any law of the legislature or the actions of the executive, whether at the Union level or at the state level, if they find such a law or action is against the Constitution.
- (v) The power and the independence of the Indian judiciary allow it to act as the guardian of the Fundamental Rights.

QUESTIONS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark Each)

1. What is SEBC?
2. Who was headed the Second Backward Classes Commission in 1979?
3. Which govt. implemented the report of Mandal Commission Report?
4. Which organ of the government makes laws in any country?
5. Who can make new laws, change existing laws, or abolish existing laws and make new ones in their place in India?
6. Which of the houses of Parliament is more powerful than other?
7. Mention the types of executive.
8. Who is the most important political institution in our country?
9. Who is the head of state in India?
10. Who is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India?
11. India has which type of judiciary?
12. What is the independence of the judiciary?

Short/Long Answer Type Question (3/5 marks)

1. Mention the main three categories of reservation in India.
2. Explain the responsibilities of Mandal commission.
3. How major decisions regarding laws/policies are taken in the country?
4. Describe the responsibilities of the Government.

5. Why do we need a Parliament?
6. Describe the Council of Ministers.
7. Explain the powers of Prime Minister of India.
8. Which house of the Parliament is more powerful? Explain giving three reasons.
9. Differentiate between political executive and permanent executive.
10. Describe the powers and functions of the President of India.
11. How has the independence of judiciary been ensured in India?

ANSWERS

Very Short Answer Type Questions (1 Mark Each)

1. Socially and Educationally Backward Classes
2. B.P. Mandal
3. Janata Dal
4. Legislature
5. Parliament
6. Lok Sabha
7. Political and Permanent Executive
8. Prime Minister
9. President
10. President
11. Integrated judiciary
12. Judiciary is not under the control of the legislature or the executive.

Short/Long Answer Type Question (3/5 marks)

1. a. Scheduled Castes
b. Scheduled Tribes
c. Other backward Castes
2. (a).To determine the criteria socially and educationally backward classes.
(b) To identify the socially and educationally backward classes.

(c) To recommend steps to be taken for the advancement socially and educationally backward classes.

3. (a) Prime minister or Head of the ministry announces the intention regarding the particular matter.

(b) Union Cabinet takes a formal decision.

(c). Prime minister or Head of the ministry informs the Parliament about the decision.

(d). The decision of the Cabinet is sent to the respective ministry or Department to make the draft or Bill.

(e). Prime minister or Head of the ministry presents the Draft or Bill in Parliament for the discussion.

(f) The Parliament either rejects or passes the bill. If passed by the Parliament, it is sent for the assent of the President.

(g) With the assent of the President, a bill becomes a law.

4. Some of the responsibilities of the government are as follows:

a. Ensuring security to the citizens.

b. Providing facilities for education.

c. Providing facilities for Health.

d. Collection of the taxes.

e. spending money on development work

f. Formulation and implementation of several welfare schemes

5. See the key points.

6. See the key points.

7. See the key points.

8. See the key points.

9. See the key points.

10. See the key points.

11. See the key points.