UNIT 8: GOVERNMENT AT THE UNION AND STATE LEVELS

UNIT STRUCTURE

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8.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to:

- discuss the qualifications, tenure, powers and functions and position of the President of India
- discuss the powers and functions of the Vice-President India
- describe the Union Council of Ministers, its composition and powers and functions
- explain the powers and functions of the Prime Minister of India
- discuss the powers, functions and position of the Governor of a State
- discuss the powers, functions and position of the State Council of Ministers and the Chief Minister
- discuss the powers and functions of the Chief Minister

8.2 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, we shall discuss the Union Government, that is, the Union executive which consists of the President, the Vice-President and the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The President is the highest executive authority in India followed by the Vice-President and the Prime Minister. Here, we will discuss the election procedure of the President and the Vice-President and their powers and function. We will also look into the role of the Prime Minister as the head of the Council of Ministers. Moreover, this unit will also introduce you to the State executive comprising the Governor and the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister.

8.3 GOVERNMENT AT THE UNION LEVEL

8.3.1 The President of India

India is a parliamentary democracy. Accordingly, the President of India is the constitutional Head of the State. All powers of the state are vested in the President and all decisions of the government are taken in his or her name. In reality, his or her powers are exercised by the Union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. In India the Prime Minister is the real executive as he or she is the head of the government.

➢ Qualifications

To be the President of India:

(a) an individual must be a citizen of India,

(b) must have completed 35 years of age and

(c) must be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.

An individual shall not he eligible for election as President if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State.

➢ Tenure

The President is elected for a time of five years. He or she can contest for this office for any number of times when his or her term is over. He or she may also resign at any time. The President can be removed from his or her office by the Parliament on the charges of violation of the Constitution. The process of removal of the President is known as impeachment.

The President of India is elected indirectly by the people. He or her is elected by an electoral college which consists of the elected members of both Houses of the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies of the States. Nominated members of the Parliament and Legislative Assembles and the elected members of the Assemblies of the Union Territories are excluded. The election of the President of India is conducted by the method of proportional system by means of a single transferable vote.

➢ Powers and Functions of the President

The President of India exercises wide ranging powers and functions. However, India being a parliamentary democracy, the President is, in reality, only a nominal head and all the powers vested in him or her are exercised by the President in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.

(a) **Executive Powers:**

All the executive powers of the Union Government have been given to the President by the Constitution of India. He or she appoints the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Union Council of Ministers. He or she also makes important appointments of the Union Government like the Attorney-General of the Union, the Comptroller and Auditor General, Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, etc. The President administers the Union Territories through administrators. Besides the appointment of such high dignitaries, the President has the power to appoint the following

administrative commissions: An Inter-State Council, the Union Public Service Commission and a Joint Commission for a group of States, the Finance Commission, the Election Commission, etc.

(b) **Military and Foreign Affairs:**

The President is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces in India. Declaration of war and peace is done in the name of the President. All matters relating to foreign affairs are conducted in the name of the President. Diplomatic envoys including High Commissioners and Ambassadors are accredited in his name. All treaties and international agreements are negotiated and concluded in the name of the President.

(b) **Legislative Powers:**

The President has the power to summon and prorogue the sessions of both Houses of the Parliament and to dissolve the House of the People (Lok Sabha). He or she can even dissolve the Lok Sabha. A bill passed by the Parliament can become a law only after receiving the signature of the President. The President can issue an ordinance when the Parliament is not in session.

Money bills can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only with the permission of the President of India. He or she also sees to it that the annual budget is laid in the Parliament in time. The Contingency Fund is placed at the disposal of the President from which he or she may make advances to meet unforeseen emergency situations.

(c) **Judicial Powers:**

The President of India exercises the power of "prerogative of mercy" He or she has the power to pardon offenders or reprieve or suspend or commute their punishments.

(d) **Emergency Powers:**

The Constitution has given the President of India same special powers to meet emergency situations. He or she exercises this power under three conditions - i) National Emergency under Article 352 when the country is threatened by war, external aggression or armed rebellion; ii) State Emergency under Article 356 when there is

break down of constitutional machinery in a State' and iii) Financial Emergency under Article 360 when there is a threat to the financial stability and credit of India.

The above mentioned powers are given to the President by the Constitution of India. But they are, in reality, exercised by the Council of Ministers in his or her name.

➢ Position of the President

The President is the Head of the State in India. But he or she is only a nominal head. The powers and functions of the President are actually exercised by the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. So, the President is not directly responsible for running the administration of the country. It is the Council of Ministers the headed by the Prime Minister which is responsible to the Parliament and ultimately the people for administering the country. The role which the President can play in the Indian political system was initially a matter of wide controversy. Accordingly, the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, provided in Article 74(1) that the President in the exercise of his or her functions shall act in accordance with the advice of his or her Council of Ministers. The Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Act, 1978, made the position of the President unambiguously clear and definite. After this amendment, the President can now get the Council of Ministers to reconsider the advice tendered to him, but the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered to him or her by the Council of Ministers after such reconsideration. Thus, the 42nd and the 44th Amendments of the Constitution made the position of the President very clear. These amendments provided that the President is bound to act in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers. He or she is the head of the state but not the real executive. He or she represents the nation but does not rule.

Though the President can not exercise his or her powers in the real sense, yet he or she occupies the most prestigious position

under the Constitution of India. He or she can exercise his or her influence upon the working of the Government of India. His or her views and opinions cannot be immediately ignored. The position of the President is also very much dependent upon his or her personality and how he or she conceives of his or her powers and functions. It is expected that the President should make the people feel that he or she is not a non- functionary but the Head of the State in India.



LET US KNOW

The President can nominate 12 members to the Rajya Sabha from among distinguished persons in the fields of literature, science, arts and social service. He or she can also nominate 2 persons from the Angle – Indian community to the Lok Sabha if no member is elected from the community to the House.



ACTIVITY 8.1

Name the first President of India. Find out the name of the President who occupied the office for more than one term.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 1: The President is elected for a term of…….years. (Fill in the blank)

Q 2: To be the President, an individual must have completed 35 years of age. (True/False)

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Q 3: The President has the power to declare State Emergency under which Article?

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Q 4: Write a short note on the legislative powers of the President. (within 50 words)

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8.2 The Vice- President of India

The Constitution of India provides for an office of the Vice President of India. His or her position is only next to that of the President of India. The importance of this lies in the fact when the office of President becomes vacant, the vice-President fills it up. He or she is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College which consists of the members of both House of Parliament. The Vice-President is located by a system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. In this election both the elected and the nominated members of the Parliament can take part unlike the election of the President.

The Vice-President is elected for a term of five years. He or she can be removed from his or her office by the process of impeachment by the Parliament. He or she may also resign his or her post before the end of his or her term.

➢ **Powers and functions of the Vice- President :**

❍ The office the Vice- President is an important office under the Constitution of India. But he or she has not been given any substantial power. The importance of this office lies in the fact that when the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President can act as the President for six months, within which period, a new President should be elected.

The office of the Vice-President is regarded as the training ground for the President and many of the occupants of this office have became the President of the country later.

❍ The main responsibility of the Vice-President is to act as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He or she presides over the meetings of the House. He or she has to maintain order in the House. No bill is regarded as passed by the House unless it is signed by the Chairman. His or her decision is final in the House.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 5: The Vice - President of India is elected directly. (True/False)

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Q 6: The Vice-President acts as the ex-officio chairman of the……(Fill in the blank)

Q 7: The Vice-President is elected for a term of ……..……. years. (Fill in the blank)

Q 8: Describe the powers and functions of the Vice-President of India. (within 50 words)

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8.3.3 The Union Council of Ministers

The President appoints the members of the Union Council of Ministers. He appoints the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the head of the Union Council of Ministers. The President appoints other ministers and distributes among them portfolios on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Council of Ministers has no fixed term of office. It remains in office so long as it enjoys majority support in the Lok Sabha. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha for its activities.

There are three categories of ministers in the Council of Ministers - The Cabinet Ministers, the Ministers of State and the deputy

Ministers. The ministers of the Cabinet rank occupy the highest position followed by the Ministers of State and the Deputy Ministers. The Cabinet Ministers along with the Prime Minister constitute a small body known as "the cabinet". The Cabinet is the most powerful body of the council of Ministers and all major decisions of the government are taken by the Cabinet.

- **Powers and functions of the Council of Ministers:**
  - The most important function of the Council of Ministers is to make policies for both external and internal matters. It is also responsible for implementing those policies.
  - The Council of Ministers is also responsible for the governance of the country. The functions of the government are divided into various departments and each department is placed under a particular minister. So, it is the duty of each minister to see that the functions of his respective department is carried out effectively.
  - Law making is another function of the Council of Ministers. Most of the bills which are introduced in the Parliament, are presented by the ministers.
  - The Council of Ministers makes the financial policies and plans. It is the duty of the Cabinet to see that the financial condition of the country is not worsening. The annual budget of the Government of India is prepared by the Finance Minister.
  - Most of the higher appointments of the Government of India are made as per the advice of the Council of Ministers. It also makes rules and regulations regarding appointment, promotionand transfer dismissal of higher officials.
  - The Council of Ministers or the Cabinet is the most powerful authority in the country. It is directly responsible for governing the country for the welfare of the people and the progress of the country.

8.3.4 The Prime Minister

The leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha is appointed by the President as the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister has no fixed term of office. He or she remains in office only so long as he enjoys the confidence in the Lok Sabha. When the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion against him or her, then he or she will have to resign.

➢ **Powers and functions of the Prime Minister :**

- The Prime Minister plays a very important role in the formation of the Union Council of Ministers. He or she advises the President regarding appointment and removal of other ministers of the Council of Ministers.
- As the head of the Council of Ministers, he or she presides over its meetings. All the decisions of the Council of Ministers are taken under his or her leadership.
- He or she co-ordinates the working of different ministers and tries to remove differences, if any, between them.
- The Prime Minister is responsible for the real administration of the country. He or she is regarded as the chief administrator in India.
- He or she is also responsible for maintaining foreign relation and making foreign policies.
- The voice of the Prime Minister on any matter is regarded as the final voice of the Government of India. He or she is the chief spokesman of the Government of India.
- It is the duty of the Prime Minister to keep the President informed of all the decisions of the Council of Ministers from time to time.

The Prime Minister occupies the third position of honour in the country just after the President and the Vice-President.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 9: Who is the leader or head of the Union Council of Ministers?

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Q 10: How many categories of Ministers are there in the Council of Ministers?

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Q 11: Which category of ministers occupies the highest position in the Council of Ministers?

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Q 12: Discuss the powers and functions of the Council of Ministers with regard to law making and financial matters. (within 50 words)

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Q 13: Who is appointed by the President as the Prime Minister of India?

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Q 14: Discuss the powers and functions of the Prime Minister. (within 50 words)

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8.4 THE GOVERNMENT AT THE STATE LEVEL

8.4.1 The Governor

➢ **Appointment, tenure and qualifications:** The Constitution provides for the post of the Governor as the constituional Head of a

State in India. He or she is appointed by the President of India. The Governor appoints the State Council of Ministers. He or she appoints the leader of the majority party in the Legislative Assembly as the Chief Minister. On the advice of the Chief Minister, he or she appoints the other Ministers of the Council of Ministers.

The Governor is appointed for a term of five years. But before the expiry of his full term, the President can dismiss him or her from office. The Governor may also resign on his own. His or her term of office may be extended and he or she may be transferred to another State. However, the State Government cannot remove the Governor from his or her post.

To be the Governor, a person must be a citizen of India and should complete 35 years of age. And he or she cannot be a member of the Parliament or the State legislature. He or she should not hold any office of profit.

- **Powers and functions :**
  - The Governor is the Chief Executive in a State. All the executive powers of the State Government are vested upon him or her and decisions are taken in his or her name. He or she appoints the Chief Minister and his or her Council of Ministers. He or she may dismiss the members of the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Governor distributes the portfolios among the members of the Council of Ministers.
  - The Governor makes some important appointments of the State Government, such as, the Advocate general, Chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission and others.
  - The Governor may call for information from the Chief Minister regarding the activities of the State Government. He or she sends reports to the President about the situation of the State. The President imposes emergency in a State under Article 356 on the basis of the report of the Governor.
  - The Governor also acts as the Chancellor of State Universities.

- The Governor is an integral part of the State legislature, though he or she is not a member of either house of it. He or she summons and prorogues the sessions of the State legislature and he can dissolve the Legislative Assembly. He or she addresses the members of the legislature and may send messages. Without the Governor's assent, no bill can become a law after it is passed by the legislature.
- Money bills can be introduced in the State Legislative Assembly only with the permission of the Governor. The Governor may promulgate ordinances during the period when the Legislative Assembly or both the Houses of the legislature (when there are two Houses) are not in session.
- The Governor may nominate one member of the Anglo- India Community to the Legislative Assembly if there are Anglo-Indian people in a State and they are not duly represented in the State legislature. He or she may also nominate 1/6 members of the Legislature Council (where they are from among persons who are experts in the fields of science, literature, arts, social service and co- operative movement).
- The Governor makes the reports of various agencies placed on the floor of the State legislature.
- The annual budget of the State Government is laid before the legislature with the approval of the Governor. The Governor must give his or her assent to -money bills-. The Contingency fund of the State is also placed at the disposal of the Governor.
- The Governor has the power of granting pardon to the persons convicted by the courts of law or remitting or commuting their sentences.
- The Governor has some discretionary powers which can be exercised by him or her independently. He or she may send any bill passed by the Sate legislature for the consideration of the President. He or she can appoint any member of the State legislature as the Chief Minister if no political party secures absolute majority in the Legislative Assembly. During emergency, the Governor of a state can exercise his or her

powers independently.

- A Governor of state can be given additional duty of the Governor of the neighboring states by the President.

The powers of the Governor, in actual practice, are exercised by the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. He or she is only a nominal executive like the President of India. The State Council of Ministers is the real executive in a State.

➢ **Position of the Governor :**

The position of the Governor of a State is compared to the President of India as a nominal executive. But the Governor is not always a nominal executive. He or she can use his or her discretion and exercise his powers in the real sense on some occasions.

He or she acts as an agent of the Central Government in a State. Therefore, he or she is responsible for maintaining relation between the Central Government and the State Government. The Governor may advise the Council of Ministers when it faces some difficult situations.

The President declares emergency in a State on the basis of the report of the Governor regarding the law and order situation in the State.

The Governor takes independent decisions while exercising discretionary powers.

He or she may seek information from the Council of Ministers regarding various activities of the Government.

He or she cannot be ignored by the Council of Ministers. He or she may even influence the decisions of the Council of Ministers in many ways as the Head of State.



LET US KNOW

While appointing the Governor, the President acts as per the advice of the Union Cabinet. The State Government is also consulted when the appointment is to be made. Generally, a person is not appointed Governor in his own State.

8.4. 2 The State Council of Ministers and the Chief Minister

The Governor appoints the State Council of Ministers. He or she appoints the leader of the majority party in the Legislative Assembly as the Chief Minister. On the advice of the Chief Minister, he or she appoints the other Ministers of the Council of Ministers.

In the State Council of Ministers like that of the Union Council of Ministers, there are three categories of ministers- Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of States and Deputy Ministers. All the Ministers, including the Chief Minister must be the members of the State legislature. If a Minister is not a member of the State legislature at the time of his appointment, he or she must be so within a period of six months from the date of his or she taking over charge as Minister.

The Chief Minister and Ministers heading individual departments of the government constitute the State Cabinet. It is the most powerful authority in State administration. All the important decisions of the State administration are taken by the Cabinet. The decisions of the Cabinet are binding upon the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers has no fixed term of office. The term of the Council of Ministers depends on the support of the majority members of the Legislative Assembly. If it loses majority support in the legislative Assembly, it has to resign. The Governor may also remove a Minister from the Council of Ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister.

The Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister exercises all the powers and functions of the Governor of the State. Therefore, it is called the real executive of a State. However, it cannot exercise the discretionary powers of the Governor.

The Council of Ministers remains responsible to the Legislative Assembly for carrying on the administration of the State.

- **Powers and functions of the State Council of Ministers :**
  - The State Council of Ministers formulates the policies for State administration. It also implements them. The Council of Ministers also implements the directives given by the Central

Government. It has to work in conformity with the national policies of the Central Government.

- The Council of Ministers prepares proposals for legislation. If authorities their introduction in the legislature by the ministers concerned. It has also to take measures so that the legislations are passed in the legislature.
- The Council of Ministers is responsible for maintaining law and order in the state. It is the real executive in the state. It is responsible for running the administration of a state according to the principles of the Constitution.
- The ministers are allotted the responsibility of various departments of state administration. They are to look after their respective departments and supervise activities so that the departments perform efficiently.
- The Council of Ministers makes policies regarding recruitment, appointment, transfer, promotion, etc. of the Public Services in the state. It even advises the Governor for the appointment of important functionaries like the Chairman and members of the Public Service Commission Advocate General, etc..
- It prepares the annual budget of the State government. The Minister for Finance presents the budget in the Legislative Assembly. It is responsible for maintaining sound financial condition in the state.
- The Council of Ministers advises the Governor regarding the date and time of summoning and proroguing the sessions of the legislature. It also advises the Governor to dissolve the Legislative Assembly.
- The social, economic and political condition of a State is dependent upon the performance of the Council of Ministers. If the ministers are efficient and dedicated, then the State will definitely work better. It also depends on how the Chief Minister is leading the Council of Ministers. If the ministers are efficient and dedicated, then the state will definitely work better. It also

depends on how the Chief Minister is leading the Council of Ministers and maintaining unity and solidarity among the ministers.

- **The Chief Minister and his powers and functions:**

  The Governor appoints the leader of the majority party in the State Legislative Assembly as the Chief Minister. He or she is the head of the State Council of Ministers. The State Council of Ministers revolves round him or her.

The Chief Minister has no fixed term of office. He or she remains in office so long as he or she commands support of the majority members of the Legislative Assembly. When he or she loses support in the legislature, he or she has to resign. The resignation of the Chief Minister must means the resignation of the whole Council of Ministers in the State.

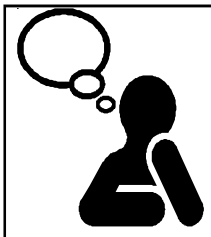
The Chief Minister must be a member of the State Legislature. If he or she is not a member of the State legislature at the time of his or her taking over charge, then he or she must be so within a period of six months.

- **Powers and functions:**
  - The Chief Minister plays an important role in the formation of the Council of Ministers. On the advice of the Chief Minister, the Governor appoints the other Ministers of the Council of Ministers and distributes among them the portfolios. As the head of the Council of Ministers, he or she presides over the meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Cabinet.
  - The Chief Minister supervises the activities of different ministries and advises them accordingly. He or she also coordinates the activities of different ministries. He or she has to see that the principle of collective responsibility is maintained by the Ministers.
  - The Chief Minister plays an important role in making policies of the State Government. He or she has to ensure that the policies of the government do not go against public interest. His or her voice is final in policy decisions of the State Government.
  - He/she plays also an important role in making higher

appointments of the State Government. The Governor appoints different higher officials of the State Government on the advice of the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers.

- The Chief Minister is the channel of communication between the Governor and the other members of the Council of Ministers. He or she has to keep the Governor informed of the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers on various matters relating to State administration.
- The Chief Minister is the chief administrator of the State. All major decisions of the State Government are taken under his or her leadership. He or she is responsible for over all working of the state departments. He or she has also to maintain a good and harmonious relation with the Central Government.
- As the leader of the majority party in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister has to see that party discipline is maintained in the House. He/she has also to defend the ministers of his Council of Ministers on the floor of the House from the criticisms of the opposition.

The success of the State Government depends to a great extent upon the leadership of the Chief Minister. If he/she is strong, dynamic and efficient, then the government will definitely perform well and rise up to the expectations of the people.



ACTIVITY 8.2

1. Find out the name of the first Chief Minister of Assam after the independence of the country.

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2. Find out who was the first woman Chief Minister of a State in India.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q 15: Who appoints the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers?

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Q 16: Who can summon and prorogue the sessions of the State legislature?

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Q 17: The Chief Minister is the chief administrator of the State. (True/False)

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Q 18: Write a note on the tenure of the Governor. (within 50 words)

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8.5 LET US SUM UP

- The President of India exercises wide ranging powers and functions including Executive Powers, military and Foreign Affairs, Legislative Powers, Judicial Powers and Emergency Powers.
- However, India being a parliamentary democracy, the President is, in reality, only a nominal head and all the powers vested in him or her are exercised by the President in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- The Constitution of India provides for an office of the Vice President of India. His or her position is only next to that of the President of India. The importance of this lies in the fact when the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President fills it up. He or she is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- The Union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister is the

real executive in the country. The most important function of the Council of Ministers is to make policies for both external and internal matters. It is also responsible for implementing those policies.

- The leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha is appointed by the President as the Prime Minister.The Prime Minister is responsible for the real administration of the country. He or she is regarded as the chief administrator in India.

  The Constitution provides for the post of the Governor as the constitutional Head of a State in India. He or she is appointed by the President of India.
- The position of the Governor of a State is compared to the President of India as a nominal executive. But the Governor is not always a nominal executive. He or she can use his or her discretion and exercise his or her powers in the real sense on some occasions.
- The Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister exercises all the powers and functions of the Governor of the State. Therefore, it is called the real executive of a State. However, it cannot exercise the discretionary powers of the Governor.



8.6 FURTHER READINGS

1) Chander, Prakash.(2000). *Indian Government and Politics*. New Delhi :Cosmos Bookhive Pvt. Ltd.

2) Ghai, K.K.(2007). *Indian Government and Politics*.New Delhi: Kalyani Publishers.

3) Kapur, Anup Chand and Misra, K.K. (2006). *Select Constitutions.*New Delhi : S. Chand and Company.

4) Pylee, M,V. (2006). *Constitutional Government in India.* New Delhi:S. Chand and Company.

8.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans to Q No 1: five

Ans to Q No 2: True

Ans to Q No 3: Article 356

Ans to Q No 4: The President has the power to summon and prorogue the sessions of both Houses of the Parliament and to dissolve the House of the People (Lok Sabha). He or she can even dissolve the Lok Sabha. A bill passed by the Parliament can become a law only after receiving the signature of the President. The President can issue an ordinance when the Parliament is not in session.

Ans to Q No 5: False

Ans to Q No 6: Rajya Sabha

Ans to Q No 7: five

Ans to Q No 8: The office the Vice- President is an important office under the Constitution of India. But he or she has not been given any substantial power. The importance of this office lies in the fact that when the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President can act as the President. However, the main responsibility of the Vice-President is to act as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He or she presides over the meetings of the House. He or she has to maintain order in the House. No bill is regarded as passed by the House unless it is signed by the Chairman. His or her decision is final in the House.

Ans to Q No 9: Prime Minister

Ans to Q No 10: Three

Ans to Q No 11: Cabinet

Ans to Q No 12: Law making is another function of the Council of Ministers. Most of the bills which are introduced in the Parliament, are presented by the ministers.

The Council of Ministers makes the financial policies and plans. It is

the duty of the Cabinet to see that the financial condition of the country is not worsening.

The annual budget of the Government of India is prepared by the Finance Minister.

Ans to Q No 13: The leader of the majority party in Lok Sabha

Ans to Q No 14: The Prime Minister plays a very important role in the formation of the Union Council of Ministers. As the head of the Council of Ministers, he or she presides over its meetings. He or she co-ordinates the working of different ministers and tries to remove differences, if any, between them. The Prime Minister is responsible for the real administration of the country. He or she is regarded as the chief administrator in India.

Ans to Q No 15: Governor

Ans to Q No 16: Governor

Ans to Q No 17: True

Ans to Q No 18: The Governor is appointed for a term of five years. But before the expiry of his full term, the President can dismiss him or her from office. The Governor may also resign on his or her own. His or her term of office may be extended and he or she may be transferred to another State. However, the State Government cannot remove the Governor from his or her post.



8.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions

Q 1: Mention two qualifications for the election of the President of India.

Q 2: Who elects the Vice - President of India ?

Q 3: Who is the head of the Union Cabinet ?

Q 4: Who is the constitutional head of a State in India?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q 1: Discuss the powers and functions of the President of India.

Q 2: Write a note on the position of the President of India.

Q 3: Write a note on the Vice-President of India.

Q 4: Examine the position of the Governor.

C) Long Questions (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q 1: How is the electoral college for the election of the President of India constituted ?Discuss the qualifications, tenure and powers and functions of the President of India.

Q 2: Write a note on the Governor of a State with reference to his or her qualifications, powers and functions.

Q 3: Discuss the powers and functions of the Prime Minister and of the Union Council of Ministers.

Q 4: Discuss the powers and functions of the State Council of Ministers and the Chief Minister.

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