

CHAPTER 2

UNION EXECUTIVE

The Union Executive comprises of the President, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. The President of India is the constitutional head while the Prime Minister is the actual head.

PRESIDENT:

He is the first citizen of the country and is also the head of the state.

ELECTION:

The President is elected indirectly with the help of an Electoral College.

QUALIFICATION:

He must be a Citizen of India, must have completed 35 years of age and should be qualified to get elected to the Lok Sabha.

TENURE:

President holds office for a term of 5 years but he can resign before completing his term.

IMPEACHMENT:

If the President violates the constitution in any way he can be removed from office by impeachment.

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT:

EXECUTIVE POWERS:

President is the executive head. All important appointments of the Union are made by him. He is the supreme commander of the Army, Navy and Airforce. Neither war nor peace can be declared without the orders of the President.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

He summons and prorogues the sessions of Parliament. Lok Sabha sessions begin with the President's address. A bill cannot become a law unless he gives his assent.

JUDICIAL POWERS:

President appoints the Chief Justice of India and the judges of the Supreme Court and High Court. He has the power to grant pardon to a convict. He can remove the judges if the Parliament proposes a resolution against him.

FINANCIAL POWERS:

A money bill can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only on his recommendation. He appoints the Finance Commission of India.

EMERGENCY POWERS:

President has the authority to declare an Emergency. They are three types.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY:

If the President feels the country's integrity and security is in danger or there is an internal rebellion he can declare a state of National Emergency.

STATE EMERGENCY OR PRESIDENTIAL RULE:

President also has the power to declare an Emergency in a particular state that is facing disorder or instability.

FINANCIAL EMERGENCY:

If the President feels that the country's financial stability is in danger, he has the power to declare Financial Emergency. But the President can use all these powers only on the advice of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.

VICE PRESIDENT:

He enjoys a term of 5 years.

POWERS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT:

Vice President is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

There are three types of Ministers. They are:

- a) Cabinet Ministers
- b) Ministers of State
- c) Deputy Ministers.

The Council of Ministers are however collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

FUNCTIONS:

They introduce proposals for legislation. The Annual budget is presented in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister. They also formulate public policies, and foreign policies.

PRIME MINISTER:

He is the head of the Council of Ministers and the keystone of the cabinet arch. His resignation means the resignation of the entire Council of Ministers.

FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

Ministers are appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. He coordinates all the policies of the government.

LINK BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS:

He communicates all the decisions made by the Council of Ministers to the President.

LEADER OF THE LOK SABHA:

Being the leader, he generates a team spirit among the Ministers.

CHIEF SPOKESPERSON OF FOREIGN POLICY:

His decisions in international affairs are responsible for improving India's image in the World.

CO-ORDINATES GOVERNMENT POLICIES:

Prime Minister plays an important role in coordinating government policies.

BUREAUCRACY:

The bureaucracy has the responsibility of implementing the policies of the government. These officials are called civil servants and are appointed by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Study SSC Online

QUESTIONS

I. FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. The _____ is the first citizen of India.

(Prime Minister, Governor, President).

II. ANSWER IN 25-30 WORDS:

1. What qualifications are required for contesting the Presidential election ?

III. WRITE SHORT NOTES IN 25-30 WORDS:

1. Judicial Powers of the President

IV. ANSWER IN 50-60 WORDS:

1. What role does the Council of Ministers play in formulating foreign policy ?

ANSWERS

I. FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. The **President** is the first citizen of India.

(Prime Minister, Governor, President).

II ANSWER IN 25-30 WORDS:

1. What qualifications are required for contesting the Presidential election ?

Ans.)

The qualifications necessary for contesting the Presidential election are:

- a) The person must be a citizen of India.
- b) The person must have completed 35 years of age.
- c) He must be qualified to get elected to the Lok Sabha.

III WRITE SHORT NOTES IN 25-30 WORDS:

1. **Judicial Powers of the President**

Ans.)

JUDICIAL POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT:

- a) The President appoints the Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- b) He has the power to pardon a convict if there is a mercy petition before him.
- c) He can remove the Supreme Court and the High Court judges if the Parliament passes a resolution against them.

IV ANSWER IN 50-60 WORDS:

1. **What role does the Council of Ministers play in formulating foreign policy ?**

Ans.)

The Council of Ministers play an important role in the formulation of foreign policy:

- a) It has the power and authority to enter into an agreement or a treaty with foreign countries.
- b) Such agreements deal with issues which are relating to economic co-operation and cultural exchange, defense, security and transportation of criminals.

- c) All these treaties are made in the name of the President but with the approval of the Parliament.
- d) The Council of Ministers also have the power to decide the contents of the treaties.

Study SSC Online