



ST. MARY'S CO-ED SCHOOL, HARDA

CLASS IX (2020-2021)

DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

CHAPTER – 5

WORKING OF INSTITUTIONS

IMPORTANT POINTS OF THE CHAPTER

- 1) In a Democracy , the rulers have to work with and within institution and in this process ; they come across three institutions : Legislative , Executive and Judiciary.
- 2) A major policy decision is taken through a government order. An order , issued by Government is called an Office Memorandum.
- 3) The Prime Minister is the head of the government and actually exercises all the government powers.
- 4) The major decision involves major functionaries of our Country. They include the president , The Prime Minister and Parliament.
- 5) Parliament is a set of people who are elected by people , directly or indirectly.
- 6) The upper house or Rajya Sabha is indirectly elected and performs special functions.
- 7) The lower house or Lok Sabha is directly elected by people and exercises the real power on behalf of the people.
- 8) The constitution of India gives some special powers to Rajya Sabha but the Lok Sabha exercises supreme power on most matters.
- 9) Through PIL (Public Interest Litigation) anyone can approach the courts if public interest is hurt by the actions of government.
- 10) The Council of Ministers is the official name of the body that includes cabinet ministers of the state with independent charges and minister of state.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS :

Question 1. Explain the major powers and functions of the Prime Minister.

Answer:

- a) Link : The Prime Minister is the link between the Cabinet and the President. The decisions of the Cabinet are conveyed to the President through the Prime Minister. It is he who keeps him informed on all matters of government.
- b) Formation of the Cabinet: The Prime Minister prepares the list of his Council of Ministers and sends it to the President. He can reshuffle his Council of Ministers whenever he likes. He can also ask any minister to resign if he is not satisfied with his working.
- c) Leader of the Lok Sabha : The Prime Minister presides over the meetings of the Cabinet. He maintains co-ordination between different departments of the government.
- d) Foreign Affairs : The Prime Minister plays an important role in the management of foreign affairs. He formulates the internal and external policies of the country.
- e) Leader of the Party: The Prime Minister has the main say in framing the policy of his party.
- f) Leader of the Nation: The Prime Minister is the most important leader of the nation. People always eagerly hear his views. His views related to any internal or external policy are heard more carefully.

Question 2. Explain the major powers and functions of the Parliament.

Answer:

- a) Legislative Powers : The Parliament can make laws on all those subjects which have been given in the Union List and the Concurrent List. Under certain cases, it can also make laws on those subjects which have been given in the State List.
- b) Control over Finance : The annual budget of the Central Government is passed by Parliament. Without Parliament's approval, the government cannot impose any tax or incur any expenditure.
- c) Control over the Executive: The Parliament can seek information regarding administration. It can pass a resolution of no confidence against the ministry and ask it to resign. Question hours are also quite effective in keeping the government and its ministers under control.
- d) Amendment or New Law : No amendment can be made in the Constitution without the approval of the Parliament.

e) Functions related to Elections : The Parliament elects the President, the Vice-President, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Deputy Speaker. Members of the Rajya Sabha elect the Vice-Chairman.

Question 3. Explain briefly the powers and functions of the Supreme Court.

Answer:

- a) Original Jurisdiction : The original jurisdiction extends to those cases which the Supreme Court has the authority to hear and decide in the first instance.
- b) Between citizens of the country;
- c) Between citizens and government;
- d) Between two or more state governments; and
- e) Between governments at the union and state level.
- f) Appellate Jurisdiction: It is the highest court of appeal in civil and criminal cases. It can hear appeals against the decisions of the High Courts.
- g) Advisory Jurisdiction : As the highest court in the country, the Supreme Court gives legal advice to the President of India on any legal or constitutional matter referred to it. However, the advice is not binding on the Supreme Court.
- h) Guardian of the Constitution: The Supreme Court acts as the guardian and final interpreter of the Constitution. If the government passes any law or issues any order which is in violation of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has the power to declare the law or order unconstitutional.
- i) Guardian of Fundamental Rights: The Supreme Court also acts as a guardian of the fundamental rights of the citizens. When a fundamental right of any citizen is violated by the government or any individual he can seek the protection of the Supreme Court.

Question 4 :What is public interest litigation? What is its importance?

Answer: Any one can approach the courts if public interest is hurt by the actions of government. This is called the public interest litigation. The courts intervene to prevent the misuse of the government's power to make decisions. They check the malpractices on the part of public officials.

Question 5. What is job reservation? What is its importance?

Answer:

Under job reservation policy some percentage of total government job vacancies are reserved for people and communities who are economically or socially backward. Job reservation policy give a fair opportunity to those communities who so far had not adequately been represented in government employment.

Question 6. Explain the discretionary powers of the President.

Answer:

With no single party getting a clear majority, a coalition of parties stake their claim to form the government. The President has to use his individual judgement and invite such a leader to head the government as Prime Minister, who can provide a stable government to the country.

Question 7. Why is there a need for political institutions?

Answer:

- a) To take decisions : Countries need political institutions to take decisions regarding the welfare of the people. Institutions formulate various policies and programmes.
- b) Implementation : The decisions which have been taken are to be implemented. So countries need institutions to implement the decisions.
- c) To solve the disputes : Institutions are also needed to solve the disputes between various institutions.
- d) To take right decisions : Institutions help the governments to take the right decisions.
- e) To avoid bad decisions : Institutions follow a proper procedure to take decisions. Institutions make it difficult to have a good decision taken very quickly but they also make it equally difficult to rush through a bad decision.

QUESTIONS FOR SELF ASSESMENT

Q.1 What does SEBC stand for?

Q.2 Write the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.

Q.3 Who among the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha exercise more power in terms of money?

Q.4 Who elects the President of India?

Q.5 What is the composition of Indian Judiciary?