

Lesson-3- Parliamentary Government

A. Multiple choice questions-

Answers

1. C. Parliament 2. Prime Minister
3. State of Council 4. The question hour 5. Impeachment

B. Match the following:

1. B. Prime minister

2. C. 552

3. Bill

4. 250

5. Adjournment motion

C. Short answers

1. A Parliamentary form of Government was found suitable taking into consideration the country's historical background, economic set-up and diverse society. The makers of our constitution were impressed by the British parliamentary system as it is responsible and accountable to the people and there is no chance of a dictator emerging.

2. The three categories of ministers to assist the Prime Minister are :

A. cabinet ministers who form the core of the executive and are in charge of very important Ministries.

B. Ministers of state can be under the Cabinet Minister or have an independent charge.

C. Deputy ministers assist the cabinet of ministers of state in their functioning.

3. The three organs of the state have a different role to play and are interdependent. They do not have an absolute authority. They are the legislature which frames the laws of the executive which executes or implements the law and the Judiciary which resolves disputes and maintains order.

4. The president is the head of state with ceremonial powers and functions on the advice of prime minister and Council of Ministers. The prime minister on the other hand is the head of Government and has the power to appoint ministers to help him run the country and implement decisions. Though the Prime Minister is accountable, he or she is more powerful than the president in the context of decision-making.

5. Two ways the Parliament exercises control over the executive:

No-confidence motion - if the opposition moves a motion that the Lok Sabha has no confidence in the Council of Ministers and if the majority of the members vote for the motion, then the Prime Minister and his ministers have to step-down.

Calling attention notices and adjournment motions wherein important or urgent public issues can be taken up on a priority basis.

D. Long answers:

1. When a Bill is introduced in Parliament it goes through some steps before it can become a law. It is first discussed by members and modified if required. A vote is taken. If the majority is for it, the bill is passed to the Rajya Sabha (if it is introduced in the Lok Sabha) where the members can suggest more changes. It then comes back to the Lok Sabha for incorporation of changes. The bill in its final form is sent to the president for his approval and only if he signs it will become a law.

2. The president has a five-year term, but can be removed before violating the Constitution by a procedure known as impeachment. Either the Rajya Sabha or the Lok Sabha can frame a charge and at least one-fourth of the members have to sign it. This is then sent to the president and after 14 days it is taken up for deliberation. After it is passed by two-thirds of the members it is sent to the other house. The president has the right to defend himself during this time. If the other house also passes the same by two-thirds the president is impeached.

3. Functions of The Upper house or Rajya Sabha consists of members representing the states of India and is also known as the Council of states. When a law is being made, their opinion is also sought. Lower house of Lok Sabha consists of members elected by the people. The regular functioning of the country is discussed here. The ruling party can be called upon to give answers for their actions. They can also pass no-confidence motion to dissolve the Lok Sabha.

The members of both houses also form a part of the electoral college and can also impeach the president or judges of supreme court or High Court.

4. In the Parliamentary form of Government members are elected by the people directly or indirectly. The Prime Minister is the head of Government and he along with the Council of Ministers is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the country. However, all the elected members, whether from the ruling party or the opposition, are accountable to the people and if they failed to keep their promises the people have the power not to vote for them in the next elections. No law can be made without approval of the Parliament. With so many people responsible for running the country, it is very difficult for a dictatorship to emerge.

5. Upper house or Rajya Sabha consists of members representing the states of India and is also known as the Council of states. The members are not elected by the people directly but by the members of the state legislative assemblies. Of the 250 members who are part of the Rajya Sabha 238 members are from the states and union territories. The president nominates 12 members who have distinguished themselves in various fields of Arts, Science literature, sports and social service.

Lesson - 4 - The Executive

A. Fill in the blanks:

Answers

1. Governor
2. Governor
3. Prime Minister
4. Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of state and Deputy Ministers.
5. Andhra Pradesh

B. Match the following:

1. F. Jawarlal Nehru
2. C. President
3. Governor
4. E. Prime Minister
5. A. Ex officer chairman of Rajya Sabha
6. B. Rajendra Prasad

C. Short answers:

1. The president is the executive head of state and all administrative decisions and important appointments are taken in his name. He can grant a presidential pardon, reduce or change a death sentence to life imprisonment if appealed to.

The Prime Minister is responsible for all decisions taken by his government to run the country he is also the spokesperson of the government within and outside the country and is the leader of the country.

2. A person who may be appointed as the President should :

Be a citizen of India

Be at least 35 years of age or above

Have qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha not be holding any office of profit under the central or State Government. If so, it should be relinquished before seeking election.

3. The President of India can be removed from office through the procedure of impeachment. A charge is framed by either House of Parliament and at least one fourth of the members have to sign it. After it is passed by two-thirds of the members it is sent to the other house . The president has the right to defend himself during this time. If the other house also passes the same by two-thirds of the president stands impeached.

4. A national emergency is declared when the president feels that the nation is at risk from external or internal sources. During an emergency the centre can take decisions on the state list and some fundamental rights may be suspended or curtailed. The Parliament has to approve the emergency within a month of imposition of emergency.

5. President's rule can be imposed in a state, under article 356, if the administrative machinery of a particular state breaks down. A state emergency can continue for three years or even more. During this time the Governor runs the administration of the state as the Agent of the president and the union government passes the budget of the affected state.

D. Long answers:

1. The executive has the president as its head of state. He is the nominal head of state. The vice president is appointed by the two houses of Parliament. The qualifications and functions are same as the President but he or she performs them only in the absence of president. The Prime Minister is appointed by the president and has a Council of Ministers, cabinet ministers, ministers of state and deputy ministers - to assist him or her in running of the country. Once the laws are passed it is the duty of civil services personnel to enforce and implement the policies of the government.

2. After the general elections the elected candidates known as members of parliament become part of the Lok Sabha. The party which secures the majority (or more than half of the seats) is the ruling party. In case of no party having a clear majority, two or more parties can come together to form a coalition government. A leader is then selected from the ruling party or the coalition party and is invited to form the government. This person

is appointed as a prime minister of the nation.

3. The vice-President is appointed by the two houses of Parliament. The qualifications and functions are same as the President but he performs them only in the absence of President. This include executive, legislative, judicial and financial functions. He also can impose an emergency, if needed, in absence of the President. The vice president also serves as ex- official chairperson of the Rajya Sabha and presides over the meetings held in the Rajya Sabha.

4. The Civil servants are the administrative or permanent executive. Once a bill is passed by both houses of Parliament and signed by the president, it becomes a law. It is the duty of civil servants to enforce and implement these laws. These personnel do not belong to any political party and are selected on the basis of their merit and qualification. The officers hold key positions in their respective spheres and continue to remain there till their retirement. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) selects them at the centre and the state public service commission select them at the state level.

