
Chapter 4

Working of Institutions

❖ Government Order

An order issued by the Central or the State government. It is also called an Office Memorandum.

❖ The Mandal Commission

- The Second Backward Classes Commission was appointed by the Government of India in the year **1979**.
- Chairman of the Commission was **B.P Mandal** and hence, it was popular as the Mandal Commission.
- It recommended **27% reservation** in government services for the **Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs)**.

❖ Need for Political Institutions

- The Prime Minister and the Cabinet are the institutions that take all the significant decisions.
- The Civil Service officers are responsible for implementing the Cabinet's decisions.
- The Supreme Court adjudicates the disputes between the government and citizens.

❖ Parliament

• Need of a Parliament

- Parliament is an assembly of the chosen representatives of people that exercise ultimate political authority on behalf of the people of a country.
- At state level, it is called a Legislative Assembly.
- It is the ultimate authority for making, annulling or changing the laws.
- A Parliament controls the working of the government as the government is accountable to the Parliament.
- Parliament has the right and control over the government's money.
- All discussions and debates regarding public issues and national policy take place in the Parliament.

• Houses of Parliament

- The Parliament has two houses- The **Rajya Sabha** (Council of States) and the **Lok Sabha** (House of the people).

- A bill has to be passed by both the Houses before it finally becomes a law. If a difference arises between both the houses, then the decision is taken in a joint session of both the houses..
- In monetary matters, the Lok Sabha has more powers. A money bill can be passed only by the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha has no say on a money bill.
- The Council of Ministers is controlled by the Lok Sabha.

❖ Political Executive and Permanent Executive

- The one which is elected by the people for only a specific period of time is called the **Political Executive**. It signifies the government of a country.
- The one where people are appointed on a long-term basis is called the **Permanent Executive** or the **Civil Services**. People working for the civil services are called the civil servants.
- The civil servants work under the political executives and help in implementing government policies.
- Why are the ministers more powerful than the civil servants even when the civil servants are usually more educated than the ministers?
 - As the will of the people is the highest, the minister gets elected by the people and thus has to exercise it on behalf of the people's demands.
 - The will of the people is supreme in a democracy and ministers are directly elected by the people, thus they are answerable to the people for every decision they take.

❖ Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

- **Prime minister**
 - It is the most important institution of the country.
 - The President appoints the Prime Minister by conducting the oath of office.
 - The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the party that gains majority in the elections.
 - The Prime Minister is empowered to choose ministers.
- **Council of Ministers**
 - The body that includes all the ministers is officially called the Council of Ministers. It comprise of both the senior and the junior ministers.
 - **Cabinet Ministers:** The top leaders of the ruling party/parties who handles the main ministries.
 - **Ministers of state with independent charge:** They are in charge of the small ministries and attend Cabinet meetings only if invited.
 - **Ministers of State:** They assist the Cabinet Ministers.

- **Powers of the Prime Minister**

- Chairs Cabinet meetings.
- Takes the final decision in case of differences among various ministers on a particular issue.
- Coordinates the working of different ministries.
- All the ministers work under his supervision.
- Can remove/appoint/transfer ministers.
- Assigns work to ministers.
- If the Prime Minister resigns/quits, the whole ministry quits.

- ❖ **The President**

- The President is the head of the State.
- He controls the functioning of all the political institutions.
- The Members of the Parliament and the Members of the Legislative Assembly elect the President.

- **Powers of the President**

- All government activities take place in the President's name.
- Laws and major policy decisions are issued in the President's name.
- Appointment of the Chief Justice of India, Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, Governor of States, Election Commissioners, etc. take place in the name of the President.
- International treaties are made in the name of the President.
- The President is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces of the country.

- ❖ **The Judiciary**

- All the courts in the country are together called the judiciary.
- The judiciary of India consists of a Supreme Court for the whole nation, state High Courts, District Courts and Courts at the local level.
- The judiciary acts as the guardian of the Fundamental Rights of the citizens of India.