



## Chapter-05- Working of Institutions

### → How is a Major policy Decision Taken?

#### A Government Order

- On August 13, 1990, the Government of India issued an order which was called an office memorandum.
- The order says that other than SC and ST, the 27% Job reservation benefit will be given to a new third category called Socially and Economically Backward classes (SEBC).

#### The Decision Makers

- A major decision would have involved other major functionaries in India, which involves the following Points:
  - (1) President, He is the head of the state and is the highest formal authority in the country.
  - (2) Prime Minister, He is the head of the government and actually exercises all governmental powers.
  - (3) Parliament consists of the president and two houses- Lok Sabha or the Lower House is composed of the elected representatives of the people.



## Need for Political Institutions

- Several arrangements are made in modern democracies, which are called institutions.
- Democracy works well when these institutions perform functions assigned to them.
- The Prime Minister and the cabinet are institutions that take all important policy decisions.
- The civil servants, working together, are responsible for taking steps to implement the minister's decisions.
- Supreme court is an institution where disputes between citizens and the government are finally settled.

## Parliament

- In democracies, an assembly of elected representatives exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people.
- In India such a national assembly of elected representative is called parliament.

## Two Houses of Parliament

- Parliament consists of two houses, - The Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and The house of people (Lok Sabha)



- The total number of elected members of Lok Sabha is 543 + 2 Anglo Indian nominated members.
- The total number of members of Rajya Sabha is 238 + 12 nominated members.

Note :- The 104th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 2019 to the constitution of India discontinued the nomination of Anglo- Indians in the Indian Parliament by amending Article 334 of the constitution.

### Executive

- At different levels of any government there are various functionaries who take day-to-day decisions and implement those decisions on behalf of the people.
- All those functionaries are collectively known as the executive.

### Political and Permanent Executive

- The one which is elected by the people for only a specific period of time is called the political Executive.
- The one where people are appointed on a long-term basis is called the permanent Executive or the civil services.
- All those people who work for the civil services are called the civil servants.



## Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister is the head of all the government and actually exercises all the government ~~not~~ power.
- He is the most important political institution in the Country

## Appointment of Prime Minister

- The President appoints the leader of the majority party or the coalition of parties that commands a majority in Lok Sabha as a Prime Minister.
- In case no single party gets a majority, the President appoints the person most likely to secure majority support.

## Tenure of Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister does not have a fixed tenure.
- He continues in power as long as he remains the leader of the majority or coalition party.

## Power of the Prime minister

- He chairs cabinet meetings.
- He coordinates the work of different Departments.
- His decisions are final in case disagreements arise between Departments.
- He exercises general supervision of different ministers. All ministers work under his leadership.
- The Prime minister distributes and redistributes work to the ministers.



## Council of Ministers

- It is the official name for the body that includes all the ministers.
- It usually has 60 to 80 ministers of different ranks.
- The Council of ministers has collective responsibility.

## The Council of Ministers Comprise

- Cabinet Ministers are usually top-leveled leaders of the ruling party or parties who are in charge of the major ministries.
- Ministers of state with independent charge are usually in charge of smaller ministries. They participate in the cabinet meetings only when specially invited.
- Ministers of state ~~with~~ are attached to and required to assist Cabinet Ministers.

## Coalition Government

- A government formed by an alliance of two or more political parties, usually when no single party enjoys majority support of the members in a legislature.

## The president

- The president is the head of the state.
- The president supervises the overall functioning of all the political institutions in the country so that they operate in harmony to achieve the objectives of the state.



- The president is not elected directly by the people. The elected Members of parliament (MPs) and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) elect President.
- All government activities take place in the name of the president.
- All laws and major policy decisions of the government are issued in her name.
- All international treaties and agreements are made in the name of the president.
- The President is the supreme commander of the defense forces of India.
- However, President exercises all these powers only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

### Judiciary

- All the courts at different levels in a country put together are called the judiciary.
- The Indian Judiciary consists of a Supreme Court for the entire nation, High Courts in the states, District Courts. The Supreme Court is the top legal organization.
- Independence of the judiciary means that it is not under the control of the legislature or the executive.