

PUB 1270: Socio-Political Environment

Session 10



**Department of Public Administration
Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
2024**

Learning Outcomes

- Explain the meaning of Decentralization
- Distinguish the various forms of Decentralization
- Explain the reasons for Decentralization and Centralization
- Explain how Decentralization is practiced in Sri Lanka

Outline

- Introduction
- Forms of Decentralization
- Important Aspects of Decentralization
- Reasons for Decentralization
- Reasons for Centralization

What is Decentralization ?

Decentralization transfers **authority** and **responsibility** of major government functions from central to sub-national governments.

(World Bank, 2013)

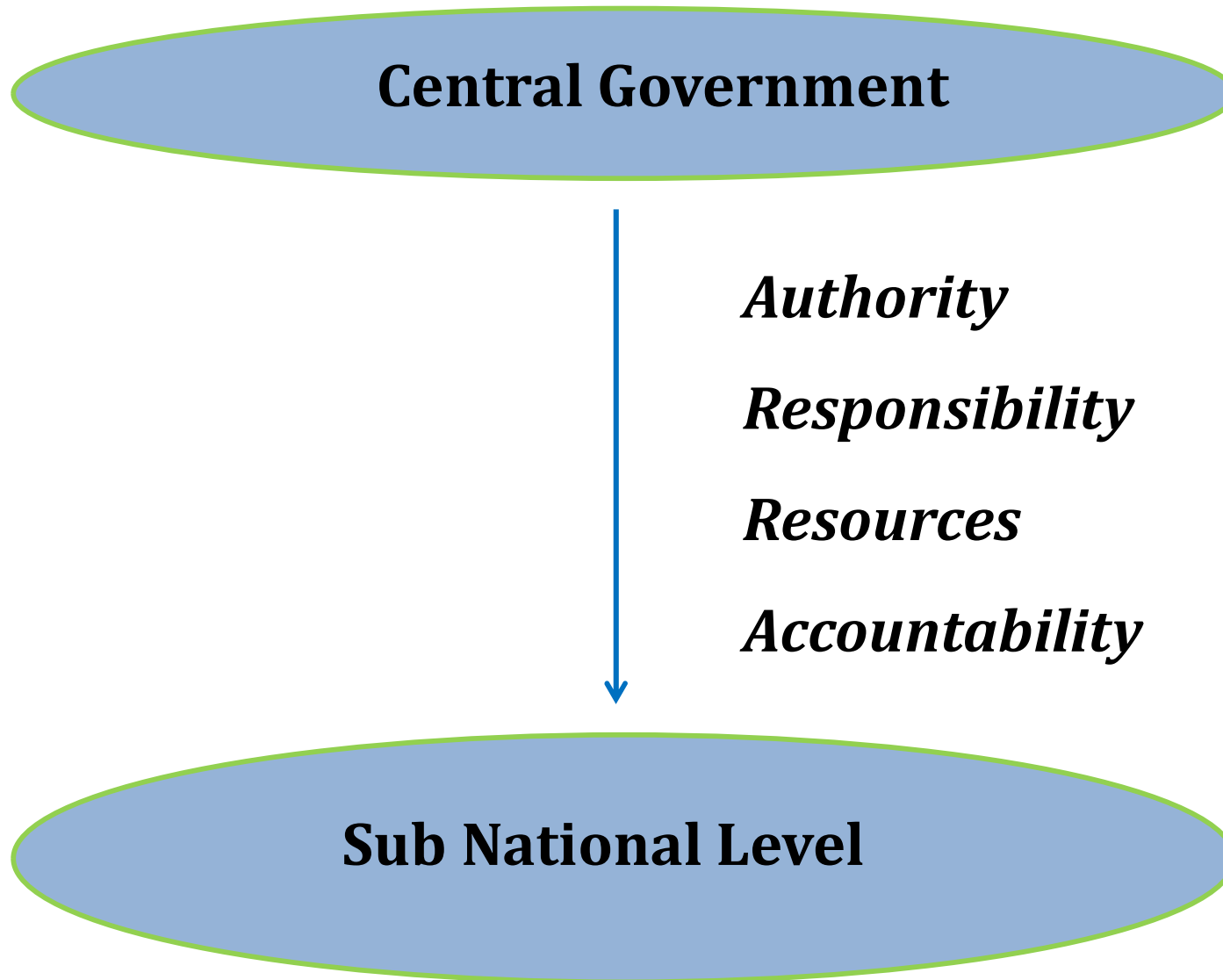
What is Decentralization ? cont'd.

Decentralization is the transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to ;

- Intermediate and local governments or,
 - Quasi-independent government organizations,
- and/or to
- The private sector.

(World Bank, 2001)

Introduction cont'd.



Forms of Decentralization

World Bank (2001) classification

- **Administrative Decentralization**
- **Political Decentralization**
- Fiscal Decentralization
- Economic/ Market Decentralization

UNDP(1997)/Rondinelli (1981), classification

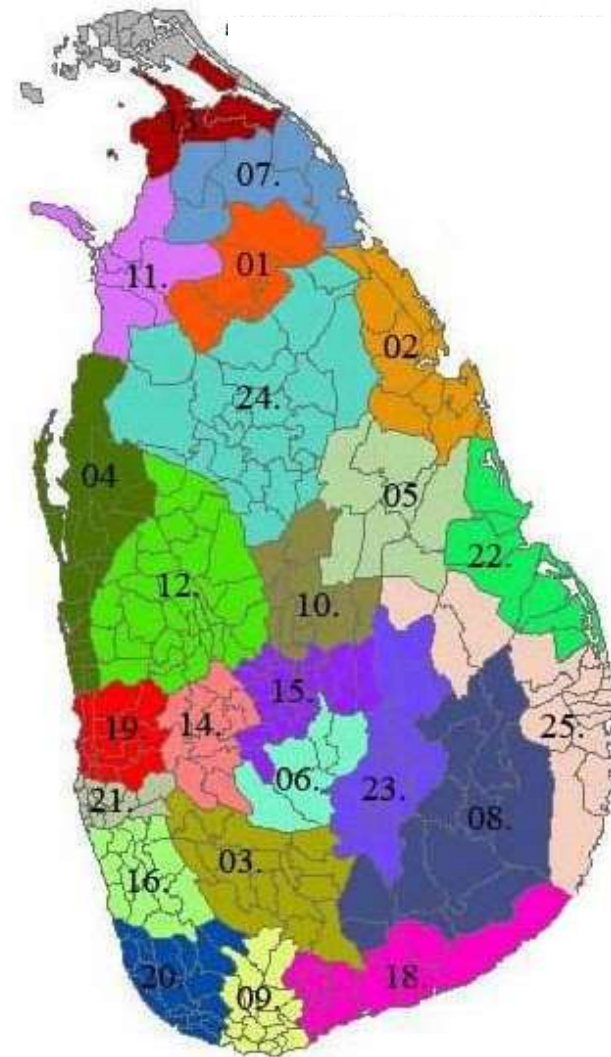
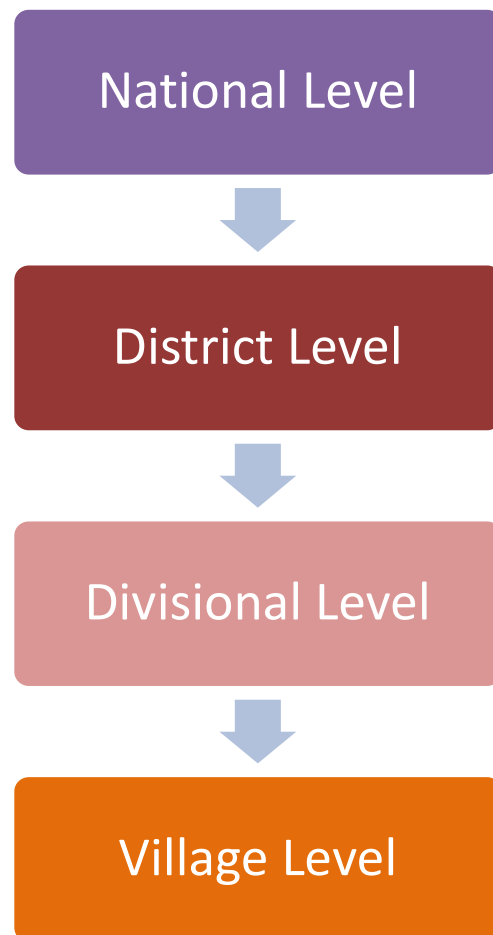
- Deconcentration
- Devolution
- Delegation
- Privatization

Administrative Decentralization

- Very limited transfer of authority
 - It is the transfer of administrative responsibility from central government to the regional administrative units to facilitate administrative functions
 - Redistribution of authority, responsibility, and financial resources for providing public services among different levels of government
- e.g.: Ministries and Departments delegate some functions to their representatives in local, districts or regional level administrative units

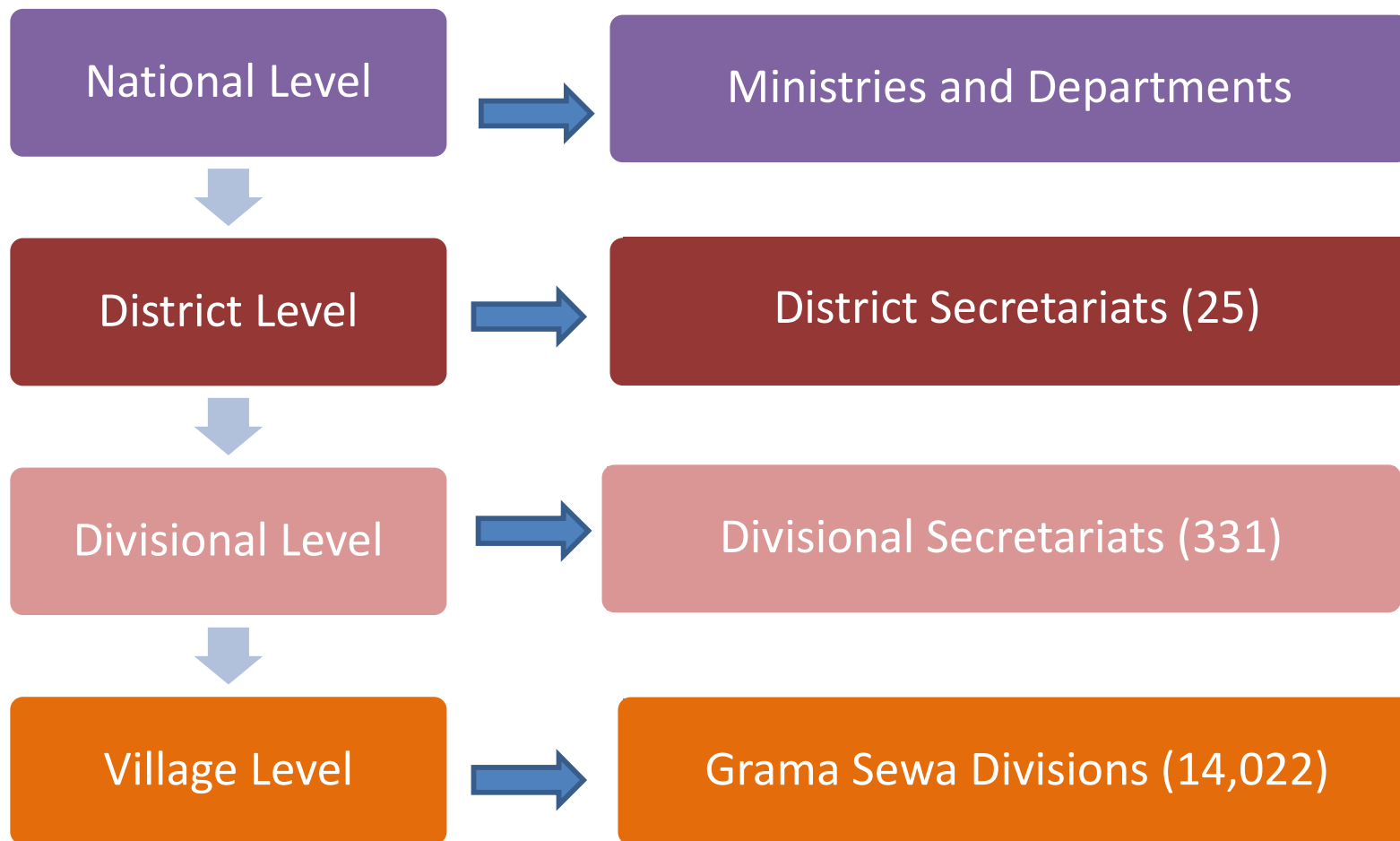
Administrative Decentralization Cont'd.

Administrative Decentralization in Sri Lanka



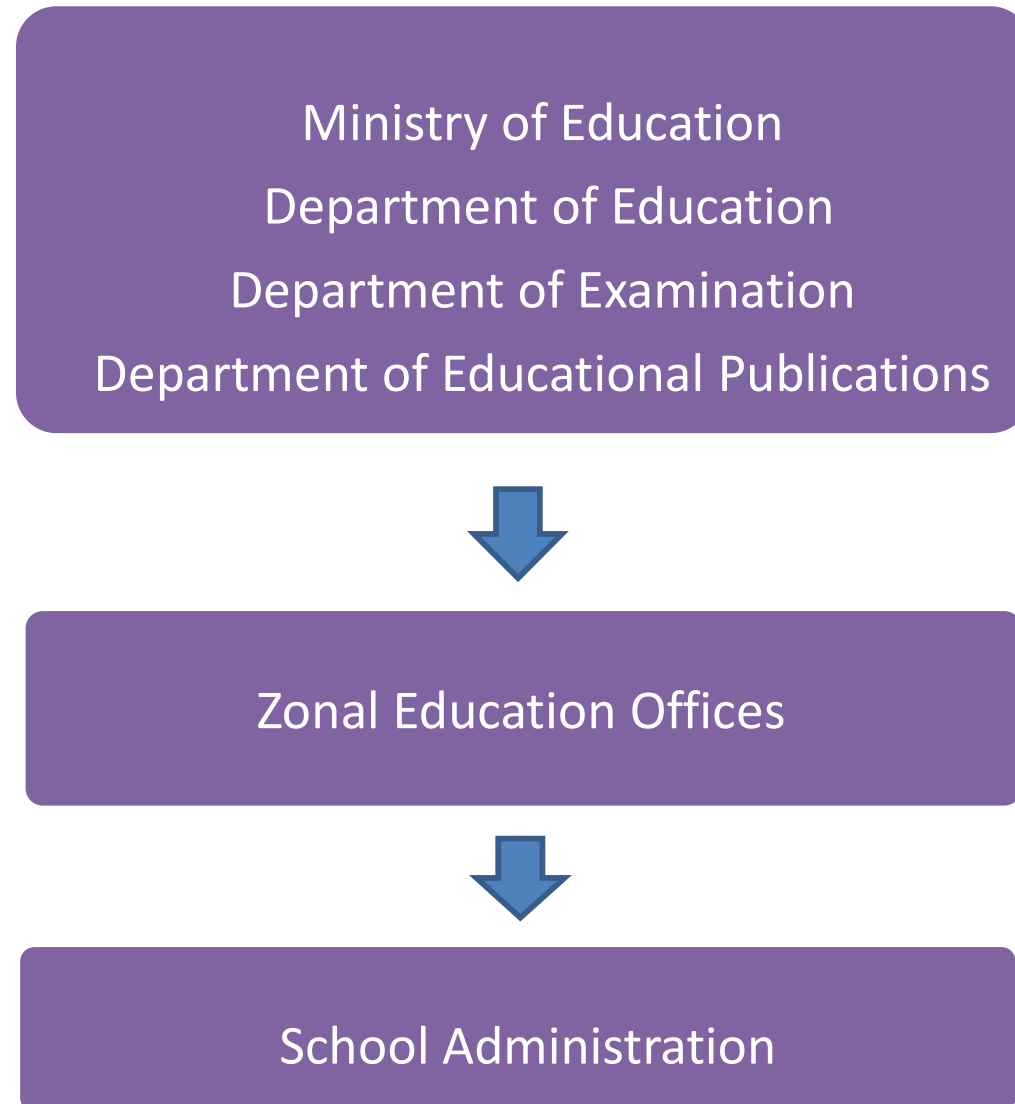
Administrative Decentralization Cont'd.

Administrative Decentralization in Sri Lanka



Administrative Decentralization Cont'd.

Administrative Decentralization - Example



Political Decentralization

- A broader concept.
- The establishment of **local self government units** with **legislative power** and **financial independence**
- This form transfers responsibilities for services to local self governments that enable them;
 - To elect their own elected representatives
 - To raise their own revenues
 - To make investment decisions independently

Political Decentralization cont'd.

In Political Decentralization, local self governments have clear and legally recognized geographical boundaries over which they exercise authority and within which they perform public functions.



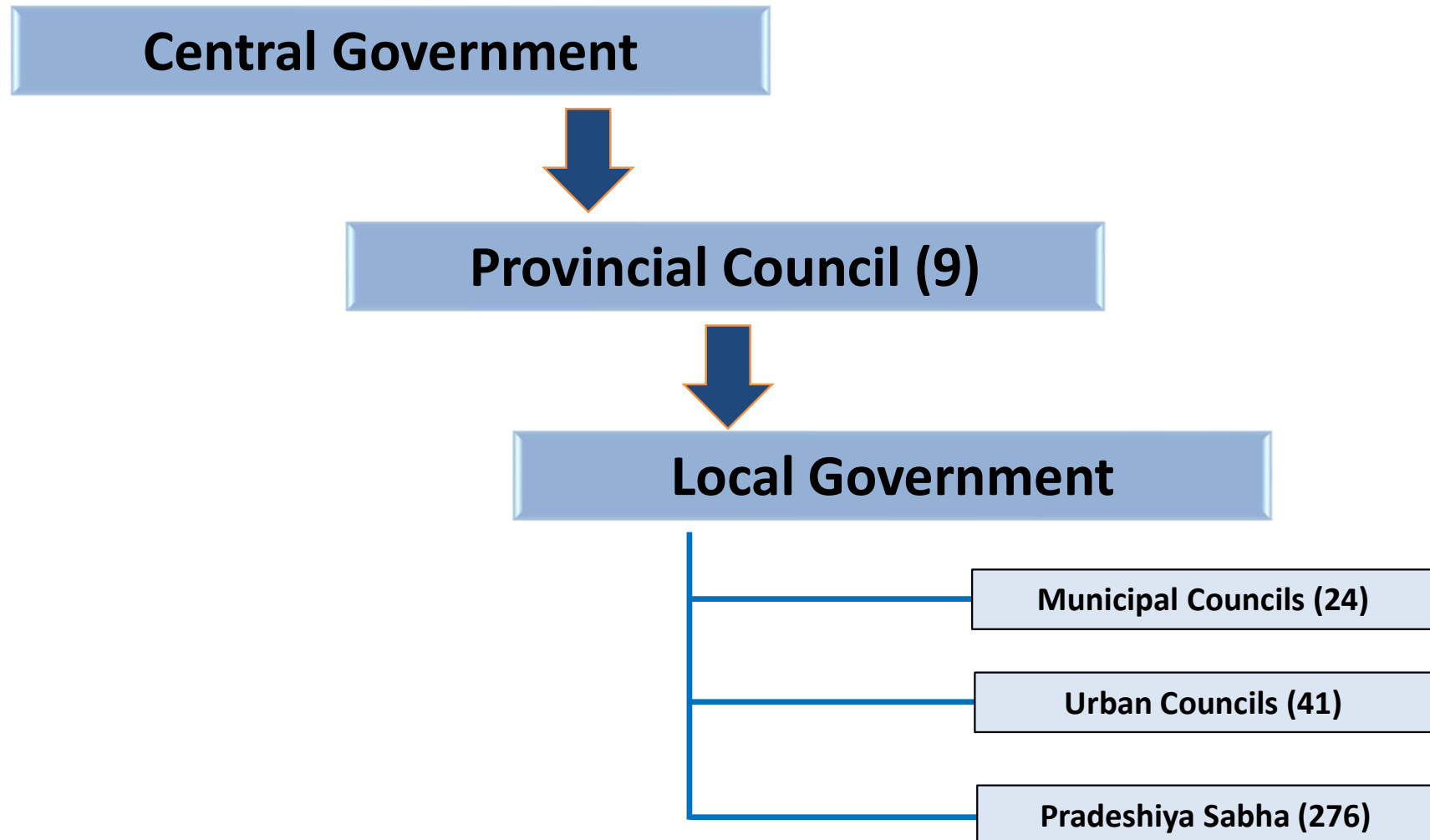
Political Decentralization cont'd.

Political Decentralization in Sri Lanka

- The 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1987, created **Provincial Councils System**
- It enables power sharing on the basis of devolved subjects through three lists namely,
 - Provincial council list
 - Central government list and
 - Concurrent list
- Also, there are local government bodies including,
 - Municipal Councils
 - Urban Councils, and
 - Pradeshiya Sabhas

Political Decentralization cont'd.

Political Decentralization in Sri Lanka



Important Aspects to be considered in Designing Decentralization

- ***What tasks?***

The amount of power and functions transferred

The legitimacy of the transfer of power

(It must be legitimized within the constitution)

- ***What level?***

The local level to which power and functions are transferred

- ***To whom?***

Clear identification of power holders

Reasons for Centralization

- **The colonial rule**
 - Highly centralized system of government to maintain law and order
 - Economic interest
 - Inherited centralized form
- **Development policies of independent government**
 - Greater role for government in development activities
 - A centralized planning system
- **Fear of disintegration**

Reasons for Centralization cont'd.

- **Uneven distribution of limited natural resources**
- **Lack of skilled labor**
- **Impact of organizational concepts**
 - Hierarchy , division of labor and coordination, communication facilities and technical nature of knowledge
- **Influence of left oriented political parties**

Reasons for Decentralization

- To promote greater development in rural areas
- To make government closer to people
- To enhance democracy
- To enable efficiency and greater flexibility