

Chapter Four

EXECUTIVE

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1. A parliamentary executive means:

- a. Executive where there is a parliament
- b. Executive elected by the parliament
- c. Where the parliament functions as the Executive
- d. Executive that is dependent on support of the majority in the parliament

Answer

A parliamentary executive means: d. Executive that is dependent on support of the majority in the parliament

2. Read this dialogue. Which argument do you agree with? Why?

Amit: Looking at the constitutional provisions, it seems that the President is only a rubber stamp.

Shama: The President appoints the Prime Minister. So, he must have the powers to remove the Prime Minister as well.

Rajesh: We don't need a President. After the election, the Parliament can meet and elect a leader to be the Prime Minister.

Answer

1. Among the arguments presented:

- Amit's argument that the President is only a rubber stamp is partially correct in the sense that the President's role is largely ceremonial, and they usually act on the advice of the Council of Ministers led by the Prime Minister.
- Shama's argument that the President appoints the Prime Minister and should have the powers to remove the Prime Minister is also valid. The President does play a crucial role in the formation of the government.

- Rajesh's argument that a President is unnecessary, and the Parliament can directly elect a leader as the Prime Minister is a different perspective.

The nature of the Indian parliamentary system is such that the President's role is primarily ceremonial, and executive powers are exercised by the elected government. However, the President's formal appointment of the Prime Minister is an important constitutional step. The preference for one argument over another depends on the perspective of the individual and their understanding of the role of the President in the Indian political system.

3. Match the following

- i. Works within the particular State in a. Indian Foreign which recruited Service
- ii. Works in any central government b. State Civil office located either at the national Services capital or elsewhere in the country
- iii. Works in a particular State to which c. All India Services allotted; can also be sent on deputation to the centre
- iv. Works in Indian missions abroad d. Central Services

Answer

Here's the matching of the given options:

- i. Works within the particular State in which recruited - State Civil Services

ii. Works in any central government office located either at the national capital or elsewhere in the country - Central Services

iii. Works in a particular State to which allotted; can also be sent on deputation to the centre - All India Services

iv. Works in Indian missions abroad - Indian Foreign Service

4. Identify the ministry which may have released the following news items. Would this be a ministry of the central government or the State government? Why?

a. An official release said that in 2004-05 the Tamil Nadu Textbooks Corporation would release new versions for standards VII, X and XI.

b. A new railway loop line bypassing the crowded Tiruvallur -Chennai section to help iron ore exporters. The new line, likely to be about 80 km long, will branch off at Puttur and then reach Athipattu near the port.

c. The three-member sub-divisional committee formed to verify suicide by farmers in Ramayampet mandal has found that the two farmers who committed suicide this month have had economic problems due to failure of crops.

Answer

The ministries that may have released the following news items and whether they belong to the central government or the State government are as follows:

a. An official release said that in 2004-05 the Tamil Nadu Textbooks Corporation would release new versions for standards VII, X, and XI.

- Ministry: Department of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu (State Government).
- This news item pertains to the education sector in Tamil Nadu, and the state government is responsible for school education.

b. A new railway loop line bypassing the crowded Tiruvallur-Chennai section to help iron ore exporters. The new line, likely to be about 80 km long, will branch off at Puttur and then reach Athipattu near the port.

- Ministry: Ministry of Railways, Government of India (Central Government).
- This news item relates to the expansion of railway infrastructure, which is under the jurisdiction of the central government.

c. The three-member sub-divisional committee formed to verify suicide by farmers in Ramayampet mandal has found that the two farmers who committed suicide this month have had economic problems due to the failure of crops.

- Ministry: Department of Agriculture or Department of Revenue, Government of Telangana (State Government).
- This news item deals with farmer suicides and agricultural issues within the state of Telangana, falling under the purview of the state government.

5. While appointing the Prime Minister, the President selects

a. Leader of the largest party in the Lok Sabha

b. Leader of the largest party in the alliance which secures a majority in the Lok Sabha

c. The leader of the largest party in the Rajya Sabha

d. Leader of the alliance or party that has the support of the majority in Lok Sabha

Answer

While appointing the Prime Minister, the President selects: b. Leader of the largest party in the alliance which secures a majority in the Lok Sabha

The President invites the leader of the political party or alliance that has the support of the majority of the members in the Lok Sabha (House of the People) to form the government. This leader is usually the one who is most likely to command the confidence of the house and can provide stable governance.

6. Read this discussion and say which of these statements applies most to India.

Alok: Prime Minister is like a king, he decides everything in our country.

Shekhar: Prime Minister is only 'first among equals', he does not have any special powers. All ministers and the PM have similar powers.

Bobby: Prime Minister has to consider the expectations of the party members and other supporters of the government. But after all, the Prime Minister has a greater say in policy making and in choosing the ministers.

Answer

In the context of India, the statement that applies most is likely to be Bobby's:

"Prime Minister has to consider the expectations of the party members and other

supporters of the government. But after all, the Prime Minister has a greater say in policy making and in choosing the ministers." In India's parliamentary system, the Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party or coalition in the Lok Sabha and holds significant influence in policy-making and cabinet appointments. However, decisions are often made collectively with the Council of Ministers.

7. Why do you think is the advice of the Council of Ministers binding on the President? Give your answer in not more than 100 words.

Answer

The advice of the Council of Ministers is binding on the President in India because of the principles of parliamentary democracy. The President is a ceremonial head of state, and executive powers are exercised by the elected representatives responsible to the legislature. The Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha (House of the People), which represents the will of the people. To ensure democratic governance, the President must act on the advice of the Council of Ministers, who are accountable to the elected legislature.

8. The parliamentary system of executive vests many powers in the legislature for controlling the executive. Why, do you think, is it so necessary to control the executive?

Answer

It is necessary to vest many powers in the legislature for controlling the executive in a parliamentary system to ensure a system of checks and balances. This separation of powers helps prevent the concentration of power in any one branch

of government. By subjecting the executive to the scrutiny and oversight of the legislature, it ensures accountability, transparency, and prevents misuse of power. This system of checks and balances is fundamental to democratic governance.

9. It is said that there is too much political interference in the working of the administrative machinery. It is suggested that there should be more and more autonomous agencies which do not have to answer to the ministers.

- a. Do you think this will make administration more peoplefriendly?
- b. Do you think this will make administration more efficient?
- c. Does democracy mean full control of elected representatives over the administration?

Answer

a. Increasing the autonomy of agencies can potentially make administration more people-friendly as it can lead to greater efficiency, reduced bureaucracy, and quicker decision-making, which may benefit the public.

b. While autonomy can enhance efficiency in some cases, it may also pose challenges if there is insufficient accountability. Striking the right balance is crucial.

c. Democracy does not mean full control of elected representatives over the administration but rather ensuring that the administration serves the interests of the people while being accountable to elected representatives.

10. Write an essay of two hundred words on the proposal to have an elected administration instead of an appointed administration.

Answer

Transitioning from Appointed to Elected Administration

In recent times, there has been a growing debate about the possibility of transitioning from an appointed administration to an elected one in various aspects of governance. While the Indian parliamentary system has traditionally relied on appointed administrators, the proposal to shift towards elected administration has gained momentum due to its potential advantages.

One of the primary arguments in favor of an elected administration is the notion of direct accountability to the people. Elected administrators would be chosen by the public, making them directly responsible for their actions and decisions. This accountability can lead to greater responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of the citizens, resulting in more people-friendly governance.

Furthermore, an elected administration can bring fresh perspectives and ideas into government. Competing in elections would necessitate administrators to present their visions and policies to the electorate, fostering a healthy democratic discourse. This could lead to innovation and creativity in governance, ultimately benefiting the public.

However, it is essential to strike a balance between elected and appointed elements in administration. While elected administrators may bring accountability and responsiveness, there is a need for a professional, non-partisan bureaucracy to

ensure the continuity and stability of government functions. Finding this balance is crucial to avoid politicizing every aspect of governance.

In conclusion, the transition towards an elected administration in certain areas of governance can have merits, such as direct accountability and fresh perspectives. However, careful consideration and planning are required to ensure that the advantages of an elected administration are harnessed while preserving the essential functions of an appointed bureaucracy in a democratic society.

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