

Chapter-1

The Union Legislature

A. Tick [] the correct option

1. The central government is answerable to the
Ans: - a. Parliament.
2. The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is
Ans: - c. 552
3. Who is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha?
Ans: - b. Speaker
4. Who presents the annual budget in the parliament?
Ans: - Finance Minister
5. The members to a State Legislative Assembly are generally elected for a term of
Ans: - 5 years

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. India is the 7th largest country in the world.
2. India is the second most populous nation in the world after China.
3. Presently, there are 545 members in the Lok Sabha.
4. In Rajya Sabha, 12 members are nominated by the President of India.
5. The parliament is the highest law making body of the country.
6. The strength of the State legislature depends upon the population of the state.

C. Match the following

1. Parliament-----d. Supreme body
2. The Lok Sabha ----- a. House of the people
3. The Rajya Sabha ----- e. Permanent house
4. India ----- c. 29 states and 7 union territories
5. The Legislature Council -----b. Vidhan Parishad

D. Answer in detail.

1. **There is a double set of government in our country. Explain.**

Ans: - India is a big country and to govern such a big country by the single government is not easy. And, therefore, for the administrative convenience, India has been divided into a number of states and union territories. That's what we call it the double set of government namely Central or Union Government and the State governments.

Central Government: the central government is based in at the central level. New Delhi is the capital city from where the government governs the entire country. Prime Minister is the real head of the State (country) and the body of ministers known as the cabinet ministers appointed for various departments help the Prime Minister to govern the whole country.

State Government: - the state government is based in the state capital. It takes care of a particular state from the capital. Chief Minister governs the state and has a body of cabinet ministers.

Both the central and the state government have three distinct bodies or organs called the legislature the executive and the judiciary.

2. Write short notes on the union, the state and the concurrent lists.

a) **Ans: - Union List:** - It contains matters over which only the centre can make the laws. The List has 97 subjects of national importance.

For example defense, foreign affairs, finance, railways, banking, posts & telegraph, currency, elections, election commission etc.

b) **State List:** - It contains matters over which only the centre can make the laws. The Lists has 66 subjects on which state can make laws.

For example education, agriculture, water supply, irrigation, markets & fairs, police, public health & sanitation, hospitals & dispensaries etc.

c) **Concurrent List:** - It contains matters over which both the centre & the states can make the laws. The List has 47 subjects on which both the central & the state governments can make laws.

For example education, factories, trade unions, electricity, labour, economic & social planning, prevention to cruelty to animals, criminal law, wildlife, forests etc.

3. Write a note on the Lok Sabha.

Ans: - The Lok Sabha is the Lower House of the Indian Parliament or the Parliament of India. It is also called the House of the people. It has many members who are directly elected by the adult citizens who reached 18 years of the country.

Composition: - the maximum strength of Lok Sabha is may be 552, out of which 230 are elected from the various states of the country. 20 are elected from union territories and 2 are nominated by the president of India to represent Anglo-Indian community. Presently, there are 545 members. It has a fixed term of five years. However, it can be dissolved earlier too if it loses the people's confidence. Its terms also can be extended by one year by the President in case of emergency. The members of Lok Sabha are elected through secret ballot which means no one knows whom the voter has voted.

Eligibility Criteria: - To become a member of Lok Sabha, a person needs certain qualifications. They are as follows:-

- I. He/She should be an Indian National.
- II. He/She should be 25 years of age or above.
- III. He/She should be mentally sound.
- IV. He/She should not be a proclaimed offender.
- V. He/She should not be insolvent.
- VI. He/She should not hold any office of profit under the government.
- VII. He/She should have his/her name in electoral list in any part of the country

4. Comment on the composition and eligibility criteria of the Rajya Sabha.

Ans: - The Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of the Parliament of India. It is also called the Council of the State. It is the permanent house. The members are elected by the adult citizens of the country.

Composition: - 1) The Rajya Sabha has a maximum strength of 250 members.

2) Out of 250members 12 members are nominated by the president of the country.

3) These 12 people who have excelled in various fields such as an art, science, literature, social service etc. are nominated.

4) The members of the Rajya sabha represent different states and union territories of India.

5) Number of members representing a state depends on the population of the state.

6) One-third of the members retire after every two years and are replaced by new members.

7) Every member of the house is elected for the term of six years

Eligibility Criteria: - To become a member of Rajya Sabha, a person needs certain qualifications. They are as follows:-

- I. He/She should be an Indian National.
- II. He/She should be 30 years of age or above.
- III. He/She should be mentally sound.
- IV. He/She should not be a proclaimed offender.
- V. He/She should not be insolvent.
- VI. He/She should not hold any office of profit under the government.
- VII. He/She should have his/her name in electoral list in any part of the country

5. How bills are passed in the Parliament?

Ans: - The Parliament is the highest law-making body in our country. It can make new laws as well as make modifications in the laws that already exist. It makes laws on any subject mentioned in Union or Concurrent lists. However, every new law should have the permission of the Parliament.

The bills are passed: A bill is introduced in either house—the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The member who is seeking to present the bill needs to give notice to the speaker in advance. This is the first stage of legislation. The bill is the draft form of a law. It becomes the law only after it is passed by both the House of Parliament and then approved by the President of India.

6. Besides making law for the country, what other functions are performed by the Parliament?

Ans: - The Parliament of the country makes laws for the people. This is the main function. Apart from this, it performs some other functions too. The following are the functions that it performs:

- a. **Controlling the Government Finance:** - the Parliament controls the financial issues over government. The government needs approval of the Parliament for its annual budget. The annual budget is presented in the Parliament every year by the finance minister. It is a financial document which shows the government's present income as well as projects its future income and expenses. The Parliament has the power to pass or reject the budget.
- b. **Controlling the Executive:** - The Parliament keeps a watchful eye on the ministers and their work. It does so in the following ways—
 - ✓ All the Members of Parliament (MPs) discuss the various government policies and seek answers from the ministries.
 - ✓ They have the power to stop an official meeting in order to discuss a matter requiring urgent attention of the government.
 - ✓ They have the power to remove a government from office by passing a vote of no-confidence against it.
- c. **Judicial Function:** - the Parliament has the power to remove some very important people from their office if they violate the Constitution or misuse their authority. The process used to remove them is called **impeachment**. The important people who can be impeached include the President, the Vice-President, and the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- d. **Constituent Functions:** - the Parliament can make amendments of the Constitution. Certain parts of the Constitution can be amended by a majority of a two-thirds majority is needed. The issues may be on International treaties and trade agreements it requires the Parliament's approval.

7. 'A state legislature can be unicameral or bicameral.' Explain.

Ans: - Legislature refers to the law making body of a state. It is the first organ of the government. It has the power to make or change laws and oversee the administration of the government. The legislature can be of two types: **unicameral** and **bicameral**.

A state legislature that has one house, known as State Legislature Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), is a unicameral legislature. It corresponds to the Lok Sabha at the centre. A state legislature that has two houses known as State Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad), is a bicameral legislature. It corresponds to the Rajya Sabha at the centre. Let us see how they differ from each other:

Unicameral Legislature	Bicameral Legislature
It has only one house, assembly or chamber for lawmaking.	It has two houses, assemblies or chambers for lawmaking.
It is suitable for small countries.	It is suitable for large countries.
Countries with unicameral legislature are China, Iran, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden etc.	Countries with bicameral legislature include India, the United States, France, Canada, Italy etc.
It is more efficient in passing laws as it needs approval from only one house to pass a law.	It is less efficient as the approval from two houses is needed to pass a law which may take more time.
It may not have members from different segments of the society. So it does not fairly represent different sectors of society.	It generally represents different segments of the society.
There are less chances of a deadlock situation in a unicameral legislature.	Deadlock or gridlock situations are common in a bicameral legislature.

8. What are the functions of the State legislature?

Ans: - Like the Union legislature, the state legislature performs many functions. They are as follows—

- I. Bills on subjects under the state and concurrent Lists can be proposed and passed by both the houses.
- II. All money bills are introduced in the legislative Assembly. The annual budget containing the income and expenditure of the government is passed by the Legislative Assembly.
- III. The State Legislative Assembly exercises the control over the Council of Ministers. The members can put questions to the ministers regarding the policies of the government.
- IV. If a vote of no-confidence is passed by the Legislative Assembly against the ministry, the ministry has to resign forthwith.
- V. It has the power to stop an official meeting in order to discuss a matter requiring urgent attention of the government.
- VI. It has the power to remove a government from office by passing a vote of no-confidence against it.
- VII. It participates in the election process regarding the election of the President as well as the members of the Rajya sabha

THE END