

CHAPTER-19

THE UNION

GOVERNMENT: THE

EXECUTIVE

CLASS VIII

(20.7.20 TO 24.7.20)

- *Every government has three organs . They are legislature , executive and judiciary. You have read about the union legislature in the previous chapter. Now, we shall study about the Union executive.*
- Executive** is that organ of the government which enforces laws made by the legislature , executes them and runs the administration of the country. The constitution of India provides for a **Parliamentary form** of government. So, there are two types of executives- **The normal executive and the real executive.** Since India is a republic , the Head of the Indian state is an elected President . She / He is vested with all the executive powers.*

- *But they are all exercised by the union council of ministers headed by the Prime ministers. Therefore, the real executive is the prime minister and the council of ministers, whereas the president is the nominal executive because she/ he is bound to act on the advice of the council of ministers. If the president does not wish to accept any advice , she/he may send it back to the council of ministers for reconsideration . But if the same advice is sent back again , the president is bound to accept it.*

THE PRESIDENT

- **Qualification for the office-** *A candidate for the office of the president of India must be a citizen of India who has completed 35 years of age. She/He should be qualified to be a member of the Lok sabha and should not hold any office of profit under the government at any level.*
- **Tenure-** *The president of India holds the office for a five year term and can be re-elected. Dr Rajendra prasad , the president of free India was the Only President to have been re-elected for a second term.*

- **Election of the President-** *The president of India is elected indirectly by an Electoral college consisting of only the elected members of (a) Lok Sabha (b) Rajya Sabha and (c) Legislative Assemblies of the states. Nominated members of any house do not participate in the election of the president . The election is held in accordance with the **Single Transferable Vote System of Proportional Representation**. Under this system, it is essential to secure the fixed quota of votes to get elected , i.e. more than 50%*
- **Impeachment-** *The process to remove the president is called **impeachment**. If a president violates the constitution , she/he can be removed from office by a resolution of impeachment , which is passed by both the houses of parliament*

- **Succession to presidency-** *In case the President falls vacant due to her/his resignation, death or impeachment, the vice president of India takes over the responsibility to officiate as President till the New President is elected. Election must be held within six months to fill up the office of the president.*
- **Emoluments and Immunities-** *The President of India draws a monthly salary of rupees 5,00,000 and some allowances . She/he is entitled to a free furnished residence . Her / his official is the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. After retirement, The President is entitled to a pension of rupees 1.5 lakhs per month throughout life.*

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

The president of India has Executive, Judiciary, financial and emergency powers.

- **Executive Powers-** *Being Head of the union Executive, all the administration decisions are taken in her/his name. She/ He makes all the important appointments including those of the Prime ministers, council of Ministers , governors , Chief justice and judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts etc.*

- **Legislative powers-** *The President is an integral part of Indian parliament. The President can summon prorogue and address the two Houses of the Parliament. Every year the first session of the Parliament begins with the Her / His address. She / He can dissolve the Lok Sabha before the expiry of its normal term if she/he is advised to do so by the Prime Minister.*
- **Financial Powers-** *The annual budget of the country is presented in the Parliament in the name of the president . Similarly , all Money Bills also require her / His approval before they are introduced in Lok Sabha. She/he has the power to appoint members of the finance commission . In case certain extraordinary situations arise, the president can sanction money to the government out of Contingency Fund to meet the situation.*

- **Judicial Powers-** *All the judges of the Supreme Court and the High courts, Including their Chief Justices are appointed by the president . On appeal for mercy, the president has the power to reduce the sentence or grant pardon or amnesty . She/ he can change the death sentence or can postpone it also.*
- **Emergency powers-** *In case extraordinary situations in the country or in one or more States, the president has been entrusted with certain emergency powers. This can happen in three situations:*
 1. **National Emergency-** *If the security of the country is threatened by war or external aggression or internal armed rebellion, the president can declare a “state of emergency” for the whole country .*

- **Breakdown of constitution Machinery in a state-** *If the government of a state is not being run in accordance with the constitution, the president can declare emergency in the state.*
- **Financial Emergency-** *When the financial stability of the country is threatened, the president can declare a state of financial emergency. The emergency powers of the President are not absolute. She / He can declare a **State of Emergency** only on the written advice of the Council of Ministers.*

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

- *The **Vice president of India** is elected for a period of five years by all the members of both the Houses of Parliament by the single Transferable Vote System in accordance with the proportional Representation System. The Vice president is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. She / he performs the same functions in Rajya Sabha as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha does. Since the Vice President is not a member of Rajya Sabha, she / he does not participate in voting in the House. However, in the case of tie, she / he can exercise his casting vote.*

UNION COUNCIL OF MINISTERS


- *According to the constitution of India, there shall be a Council of Ministers headed by the prime ministers. It will aid and advise the president in the exercise of her / his functions . The Council of Ministers is responsible to the popularly elected Lower house of the parliament, i.e. the lok sabha. The council of ministers comprises to the prime ministers, the cabinet ministers and the ministers of state. The composition of the council of ministers starts with the appointment of the prime ministers by the president of India. The council of ministers works collectively as a team. All the ministers become equally responsible to defend their acts and decisions. So, all the ministers swim or sink together. This is called **collective responsibility**.*

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS-

- *The Council of Ministers is responsible for the formation of internal and external policy of the country, taking decisions at the national and international levels, to run the administration through various ministeries, like Defence, Finance, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Health, etc. It also performs certain legislative functions like preparing and approving the annual budget and making laws.*

FUNCTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTERS

- *The Prime ministers is the pivot and the entire administration revolves around her/him. As Head of the government , the Prime minister enjoys real powers. The main powers of the Prime Ministers are:*
 - ▣ *to form Council of ministers.*
 - ▣ *to preside over the meetings of the Cabinet as well as Council of Ministers.*
 - ▣ *to coordinate the working of various departments.*
 - ▣ *to act as a link between the President and the Cabinet.*
 - ▣ *to advise the President about important appointments like that of chairman of UPSC , auditor General of India etc.*

A close-up photograph of several vibrant pink flowers, likely lilies, with white centers and dark spots. A white rectangular box is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the text "Thank you !!!".

Thank you !!!