

# 4

## The Union Executive

### Lesson Plan

#### Contents

- ▶ An overview of the Union Executive in India and its functions
- ▶ Understanding the role and composition of the Union Executive

#### Objectives

- ▶ To understand the powers and functions of the Union Executive
- ▶ To learn about the manner in which the Union Executive is structured and its various functions
- ▶ To know about the constituents of the Union Executive and the various functions of each
- ▶ To appreciate the need for the Union Executive in the functioning of the government

#### ■ Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe
- ▶ Pictures, charts, atlas and wall maps
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

#### ■ Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the meaning and functions of the Union Executive.
- ▶ Students should be encouraged to know the significance and role of the Union Executive in the running of the government.

#### ■ Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., pausing to examine and explain the data in the boxes.
- ▶ Particularly focus on the Union Executive and its constituents, and the role played each in the smooth functioning of the government.

## Why an Executive?

- ▶ People who run the government—the executive—the President, the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers.
- ▶ At the Centre and in the States—an official head, a real head comprising different categories of ministers.
- ▶ The President of India—Constitutional head of Indian Union—real powers exercised by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers—President exercises his/her powers on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

## The President

- ▶ The President—elected by the Electoral College—the elected members of the two Houses of Parliament and the legislative assemblies—for a term of five years—can be re-elected for another term—can resign by giving a letter to the Vice President who will convey it to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha—can be removed by impeachment—Qualifications: A citizen of India; At least 35 years of age; Qualified to be member of the Lok Sabha; Does not hold any office of profit; Is not an MP or member of a State Legislature.

## Power and Functions of the President

- ▶ All decisions carried out in the name of the President—he/she must be informed of all decisions of the Cabinet—can call for information from all departments of government—also the Supreme Commander of the Defence forces—all important appointments made by the President, on the advice of the Prime Minister, and on his/her advice appoints the Council of Ministers—appoints Governors of States, the Attorney General of India, the Chairman and Members of the Union Public Service Commission—also ambassadors and diplomatic officials to foreign countries and receives other nations' high officials.

## The Legislative Powers of the President

- ▶ He/She addresses the first session of Parliament after elections.
- ▶ He/She can dissolve the Lok Sabha and call for a joint session of both Houses of Parliament in case of a deadlock.
- ▶ A Bill becomes law only after his/her assent.
- ▶ Issues ordinances when Parliament not in session.

## The Judicial Powers of the President

- ▶ He/She can pardon or reduce punishment, pardon death penalty on appeal.
- ▶ Appoints Chief Justice and other judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

## The Financial Powers of the President

- ▶ Union Budget presented in Parliament in name of President.
- ▶ Money Bills introduced after President's consent.
- ▶ The Finance Commission is appointed by the President after every five years.

## The Emergency Powers of the President

- ▶ When State threatened by war, external aggression or internal rebellion or in case of financial crisis—Emergency for entire country is declared by the President on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

## President's Rule in a State

- ▶ If a State government does not run according to constitutional provisions, then the government is dismissed by the President—when there is a threat to law and order and a State government is unable to bring the situation under control, then an emergency is declared and the State brought under the control of the Centre.

## The Vice President

- ▶ In the absence of President, Vice President acts in his/her place - If President dies, the Vice President takes over interim charge.
- ▶ Vice President also Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha—elected by the elected members of both the Houses of the Parliament.
- ▶ Qualifications: A citizen of India; at least 35 years of age; must qualify to be a member of the Rajya Sabha; term period of 5 years—can be removed before completion of term by a resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha.

## The Prime Minister

- ▶ Party that wins majority seats in the Lok Sabha in General Elections forms the government—leader of majority party becomes the Prime Minister—invited by the President to form the government—Prime Minister the real head of the Parliament.

## The Council of Ministers

- ▶ Prime Ministers selects the Members of Parliament or MPs who will form the Council of Ministers—allocates portfolios —Prime Minister presides over the meetings of the Cabinet—supervises the daily routine—also advises the President to dissolve the Lok Sabha—Prime Minister a link between the President and the Council of Ministers.
- ▶ Categories of Council of Ministers:
  - (i) Cabinet Ministers—Hold important portfolios like defence, education, industry, textile, etc. [law, finance, home].
  - (ii) Ministers of State—represent their states and occupy second level of the Council of Ministers.
  - (iii) Deputy Ministers—assist Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State.
- ▶ Council of Ministers work as a team—collectively responsible to the Parliament—supposed to answer the questions in Parliament—failing this, they may be dismissed by a vote of no confidence—take decisions about finance, budget and on passing of Bills—frame laws that are executed by civil servants like IAS, IPS, IRS and other officers.
- ▶ Civil servants—selected through a competitive examination—conducted by the Union Public Service Commission—take care of administration of a State—look after day-to-day affairs of government—effectiveness of administration depends on good work of the civil servants

### Oral Assignment

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm the right answers. Let them write down the correct answers if they like in their books.

### Written Assignment

- B–D. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask the students to write the answers on their own. Then the teacher can announce the correct answers to the students and they can ask their partners to cross-check them.

In either case, the answers can be written as homework and the teacher can check them in the class.

### Think Tank

- E. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the two questions in the class and let the students write the answers to G and H as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.