**DEMOCRATIC POLITICS-CH.5 – Working of Institutions**

**1. Why are political institutions important?**

1. They help in the formulation and implementation of several welfare schemes.
2. They provide an opportunity for a wider set of people to be consulted in any decision.
3. They are important to determine what is right and what is wrong for the people and keep all the administrative activities taking place even if the person in key position change.

**2. Name the three institutions that play a key role in major decisions in a democracy. Explain their role.**

The three institutions are legislature, executive and judiciary.

Legislature:

* The PM and the cabinet are institutions that take all important policy decisions.
* Executive:
* The civil servants, working together are responsible for taking steps to implement the ministers decisions.
* Judiciary:
* Supreme Court is an institution where disputes between citizens and the government are finally settled.

**3. Why do we need a parliament?**

The national assembly of elected representatives is called Parliament. We need a parliament to perform the following functions:

* It is the final authority for making laws in the country.
* Those who run the government can take decisions only as long as they enjoy support of the parliament.
* Parliament control all the money that governments have.
* It is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy in any country.

**4. Differentiate between the two houses of Parliament.**

The two houses or chamber of parliament are Rajya Sabha ( Upper house ) and Lok Sabha ( Lower house )

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| Rajya Sabha | Lok Sabha |
| 1. The members of Rajya sabha are indirectly elected by the members of the legislative assemblies. | 1. The members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people. |
| 2. The strength of Rajya Sabha is 250 out of which 12 are nominated by the President of India | 2. The strength is 545 out of which 2 members are nominated by the president |
| 3. The tenure of the members is 6 years but one third members retire after every 2 yrs. Rajya Sabha cannot be dissolved. It is a permanent house. | 3. The tenure of its members is 5 yrs. The house can be dissolved before the expiry of the term. |
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5**. Lok Sabha is more powerful than Rajya sabha. Explain by giving three reasons.**

Our constitution does give the Rajya Sabha some special power over the states. But on most matters, the Lok sabha exercises supreme power like :

1. Lok Sabha exercises more power in money matters. Once the Loksabha passes the budget of the government or any money related law, the Rajya Sabha cannot reject it.
2. The Lok Sabha controls the council of ministers.
3. Because of the larger number of members, the view of the Lok sabha is likely to prevail.

**6. Explain the difference between the political executive and permanent executive**.

In a democratic country, two categories make up the executive – political executive and permanent executive.

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| Political Executive | Permanent Executive |
| 1. They are elected by the people for a specific period | 1. They are appointed on a long term. |
| 2. Political leaders or executives take all the big decisions. | 2. They work as civil servants under political executive and assist them in carrying out the day to day administration |
| 3. They are answerable and accountable to the people | 3. They are not directly answerable and accountable to the people. |

**7. Describe the powers and functions of the PM of India.**

In India PM is the head of the government and the most important political institution. President appoints the leader of the majority party or the coalition of parties that commands a majority in the Lok sabha as PM. His important powers and functions are :

1. **Selection of ministers :** The PM is free to choose the ministers as long as they are members of the parliament.
2. **Chairs cabinet meetings :** Being the chairman of the cabinet the PM presides over the meetings of the cabinet.
3. **Allocation of departments :** The PM allocates different departments to different ministers.
4. **Link between the President and the cabinet :** The PM communicates to the President all the decisions of the council of ministers relating to the administration of Union and proposals of legislation.

**8. What is the role of President of India?**

1. The President is the head of the state but exercise only nominal powers.
2. He supervises the overall functioning of all political institutions in the country.
3. He is the supreme commander of the defence forces of India.
4. All laws and major policy decisions of Government are issued in his name.
5. All major appointments like the appointment of Chief justice of India, Judges of supreme and High court, Election commissioner, ambassadors are made by the President.

**9. Who elects the President of India?**

The President is not elected directly by the people. The elected members of Parliament ( MPs ) and the elected members of the legislative assemblies ( MLAs ) elect him. He remains only a nominal executive.

**10. What is the difference between parliamentary form of Government and the presidential form of Government?**

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| Parliamentary form | Presidential form |
| 1. In this system, the parliament is supreme. The president is the head of the state but only have nominal power. | 1. The President is both the head of the state and head of the government. |
| 2**.** Thepresident is indirectly elected. The PM is directly elected by the people and ruling the country. | 2. The president is directly elected by the people. |
| 3.The president appoints the council of ministers on the advice of the PM | 3. The Presidentpersonally chooses and appoints all ministers. |
| 4. In countries like India, that follow the British model, the parliament is supreme. | 4. USA, Latin American countries, ex- Soviet union countries, the President is the Central power. |

**11. How has the Indian constitution ensured the independence of judiciary?**

1. It is not under the control of the legislature or the executive.
2. The Supreme court and the High Courts have the power to interpret the constitution of the country. They can declare any law invalid, if they find such a law or action is against the constitution. This is known as judicial review.
3. A judge can be removed only by an impeachment motion passed separately by two thirds members of the two houses of the parliament.
4. It acts as the guardian of the Fundamental Rights. Any citizen can approach the courts if public interest is hurt by the actions of government. This is called Public Interest Litigation ( PIL )
5. There is very little scope for the interference by the political executive.

**12. What is impeachment?**

A special parliamentary procedure to prosecute or to remove the President and Judges for violation of the constitution.

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