

# VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPITH SHAKTI UTTHAN ASHRAM LAKHISARAI

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Ch:WORKING INSTITUTION (Notes)

Read the following passage throughly and try to understand.

## Parliament

Decisions are not directly taken in Parliament. But Parliamentary discussions on the Report influence and shape the decision of the government. These discussions bring pressure on the government to act. If Parliament is not in favour of the decision, then the Government cannot go ahead and cannot implement the decision.

### *Why Do We Need Parliament*

An assembly of elected representatives is called **Parliament** which exercises supreme political authority on behalf of the people. At the state level, this is called the Legislature **or Legislative Assembly**. The name may vary in different countries, but such an assembly exists in every democracy.

Parliament exercises political authority on behalf of the people in many ways as listed below:

1. Parliament is the final authority for making laws in any country.
2. Those who run the government can take decisions only when they get the support of Parliament.
3. Parliaments control all the money that governments have.
4. Parliament is the highest forum of discussion and debate on public issues and national policy in any country.

### *Two Houses of Parliament*

Most large countries divide the role and powers of Parliament into two parts which are called **Chambers or Houses**.

1. One House is usually directly elected by the people and exercises the real power on behalf of the people.
2. The Second House is usually elected indirectly and performs some special functions. The most common work for the second House is to look after the interests of various states, regions or federal units.

In India, Parliament consists of 2 Houses. The two Houses are known as:

1. The **Council of States (Rajya Sabha)**
2. The **House of the People (Lok Sabha)**

The **President** of India is a part of Parliament, although he/she is not a member of either House. All laws made in the Houses come into force only after receiving the assent of the President.

Indian Constitution does give the Rajya Sabha some special powers over the states. But on most matters, the Lok Sabha exercises supreme power. Here are some points that illustrate this:

1. Any ordinary law needs to be passed by both the Houses. But if there is a difference between the two Houses, the final decision is taken in a joint session in which members of both the Houses sit together. The view of the Lok Sabha is likely to prevail in such a meeting since there are a lot many members of the Lok Sabha.
2. Lok Sabha exercises more powers in money matters.
3. Lok Sabha controls the Council of Ministers.

## Political Executive

At different levels of any government, functionaries take day-to-day decisions but do not exercise supreme power on behalf of the people. All these functionaries are collectively known as the **executive**. This executive is in charge of the 'execution' of the policies of the government. Thus, when we talk about 'the government' we usually mean the executive.

### *Political and Permanent Executive*

In a democratic country, two categories make up the executive.

1. One that is elected by the people for a specific period, is called the **political executive**. Political leaders who take big decisions fall in this category.
2. People who are appointed on a long-term basis are called the **permanent executive or civil services**. People working in civil services are called **civil servants**. They remain in office even when the ruling party changes. These officers work under political executive and assist them in carrying out the day-to-day administration.

SUBJECT TEACHER MUKESH KUMAR.