

Parliamentary and Presidential forms of government

Two forms of government (Presidential & Parliamentary) stand identified on the basis of nature of relationship between the legislature and the executive.

The Parliamentary government is constituted by the members of the parliament who are in majority and the executive is responsible to the Parliament. The executive always works in close harmony with the legislature and this government works as a flexible system. Public opinion acts as good checks on the government, but in the absence of sound party system the executive may become dictatorial and inefficient. Executive is weak because its tenure is not fixed. UK, India follows this form of government.

Presidential government is that form of government in which the chief executive is independent of the legislature. In it the executive is neither responsible to the legislature nor is related to it. A presidential government is a stable government and a strong government. It is a government by professional experts and it is free from aggressive party politics. However the President can become despotic and irresponsible and the executive cannot be changed easily. USA follows this form of government.

India follows the Parliamentary form of government having two parts. The President is the nominal head and the Prime Minister is the real head. There is a close relationship between the executive and the legislature. The legislature exercises a control over the executive by putting of questions, moving motions against the executive, audit etc. Each minister is individually as well as collectively responsible to the legislature.

The Prime Minister exercises vast and real executive powers and can even get the legislature dissolved. Political Homogeneity and secrecy of office is maintained. Countries like France and Switzerland follow a form of government involving a mixture of Presidential and Parliamentary form of government.

Short questions

- 1) Which form of government is at work in France and Bangladesh?
- 2) How is public opinion important in a parliamentary set up?
- 3) Discuss any two features of Presidential form of government.
- 4) How does the legislature exercise control over the executive?
- 5) What do you mean by a single unified executive?

Long questions

- 1) Discuss any six features of a Parliamentary form of government.

- 2)What is the relationship between the legislature and executive in a Parliamentary model?
- 3)Mention any six differences between the two forms of government.
- 4)What is a Presidential form of government?Mention any 3 merits and 3 demerits.
- 5)Explain any four merits of a Parliamentary form of government.