

Question: Discuss the main components of the executive in India.

Answer:

Introduction:

According to the Indian Constitution, the government is divided into three main branches: Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. Among these, the **Executive** is responsible for implementing policies, managing administration, and ensuring the effective **governance** of the country.

Provisions related to the Executive are mentioned in Articles **52** to **78** of the Constitution. The Executive is broadly classified into two types:

1. **Political Executive** – This includes the President, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, Governor, and Chief Minister.
2. **Permanent Executive** – This includes Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and other government officers who handle the administration on a long-term basis.

1. Major Components of the Indian Executive

(A) The President – Articles 52-62

The President is the constitutional head of India, but due to the parliamentary system, he is not the real executive head. The President is elected by an Electoral College. He is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of India. The President appoints the Prime Minister and other ministers based on the Prime Minister's recommendations. He has the power to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the sessions of Parliament. No bill can become law without the President's approval. In emergency situations, the President can declare National Emergency (Article 352), President's Rule in states (Article 356), and Financial Emergency (Article 360).

(B) The Prime Minister – Articles 74-75

The Prime Minister is the real executive head of India. The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha. He advises the President on the

appointment of ministers. He heads the Cabinet meetings and plays a key role in policy-making and governance. He represents the government before the opposition, media, and public. The President is bound by the advice of the Prime Minister.

(C) The **Council of Ministers** – Articles 74-75

The Council of Ministers consists of the Prime Minister and other ministers. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

It has three levels:

1. Cabinet Ministers – Senior ministers handling key ministries such as Home, Finance, Defense, and External Affairs.
2. Ministers of State – These ministers either work independently or assist Cabinet Ministers.
3. Deputy Ministers – They support other ministers in administrative functions.

(D) The **Governor** – Articles 153-162

The Governor is the constitutional head of a state and is appointed by the President. The Governor is the nominal head, while the real executive power lies with the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers. He has the power to summon, prorogue, and dissolve the State Legislative Assembly. He appoints the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers. He can recommend President's Rule in the state under Article 356.

(E) The **Chief Minister** – Article 164

The Chief Minister is the real executive head of a state. The Chief Minister is the leader of the majority party in the State Legislative Assembly. He advises the Governor on the appointment of ministers. He formulates and implements policies for state administration. He is responsible for maintaining law and order in the state.

(F) Indian Civil Services – The Permanent Executive

A permanent executive is required for the smooth implementation of government policies and efficient administration. This is known as the Indian Civil Services. The Indian Civil Services consists of three major branches:

1. Indian Administrative Service (IAS)

IAS officers work as District Collectors, Secretaries, Chief Secretaries, etc. They play a key role in policy implementation and governance.

2. Indian Police Service (IPS)

IPS officers maintain law and order. They hold key positions such as Director General of Police (DGP) and Superintendent of Police (SP).

3. Indian Foreign Service (IFS)

IFS officers represent India in foreign countries. They serve as Ambassadors and Consuls General.

2. Functions of the Indian Executive

(A) Legislative Functions

The President and the Governor summon, prorogue, and dissolve parliamentary and state legislative sessions. The President can issue ordinances when Parliament is not in session. The Prime Minister and Chief Minister play a key role in law-making.

(B) Administrative Functions

Implementing government policies and schemes. Maintaining law and order. Supervising government departments.

(C) Financial Functions

Managing the budget and securing parliamentary approval. Overseeing taxation and government expenditures.

(D)Judicial Functions

The President and the Governor have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, and remissions of punishment. Investigating cases of corruption and misconduct of public servants and ministers.

(E) Emergency Functions

The President can declare a National Emergency (Article 352), President's Rule in a state (Article 356), and Financial Emergency (Article 360).

Conclusion

The Indian Executive plays a vital role in the governance of the country. The President is the constitutional head, while the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister hold real executive power. The Council of Ministers assists in policy-making and administration. The Indian Civil Services ensure the smooth functioning of administration. Thus, the Indian Executive is responsible for effective governance and maintaining democracy in the country.



Sheo Vivek

**Assistant Professor,
Political Science, Shershaah
College, Sasaram, District –
Rohtas, Bihar**