

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

The States

The system of government in states closely resembles that of the Union.

Executive

GOVERNOR

State executive consists of Governor and Council of Ministers with Chief Minister as its head. The Governor of a State is appointed by the President for a term of five years and holds office during his pleasure. Only Indian citizens above 35 years of age are eligible for appointment to this office. Executive power of the State is vested in Governor.

Council of Ministers with Chief Minister as head aids and advises Governor in exercise of his functions except in so far as he is by or under the Constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion. In respect of Nagaland, Governor has special responsibility under Article 371 A of the Constitution with respect to law and order and even though it is necessary for him to consult Council of Ministers in matters relating to law and order, he can exercise his individual judgement as to the action to be taken.

Similarly, in respect of Arunachal Pradesh, Governor has special responsibility under Article 371H of the Constitution with respect to law and order and in discharge of his functions in relation thereto. Governor shall, after consulting Council of Ministers, exercise his individual judgement as to the action to be taken. These are, however, temporary provisions if President, on receipt of a report from Governor or otherwise is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for Governor to have special responsibility with respect to law and order, he may so direct by an order.

Likewise, in the Sixth Schedule which applies to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram as specified in para 20 of that Schedule,

discretionary powers are given to Governor in matters relating to sharing of royalties between district council and state government. Sixth Schedule vests additional discretionary powers in Governors of Mizoram and Tripura in almost all their functions (except approving regulations for levy of taxes and money lending by non-tribal by district councils) since December 1998. In Sikkim, Governor has been given special responsibility for peace and social and economic advancement of different sections of population.

All Governors while discharging such constitutional functions as appointment of Chief Minister of a State or sending a report to President about failure of constitutional machinery in a State or in respect of matters relating to assent to a Bill passed by legislature, exercise their own judgement.

Council Of Ministers

The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor who also appoints other ministers on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to legislative assembly of the State.

Legislature

For every state, there is a legislature, which consists of Governor and one House or, two Houses as the case may be. In Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, there are two Houses known as legislative council and legislative assembly. In the remaining states, there is only one House known as legislative assembly. Parliament may, by law, provide for abolition of an existing legislative council or for creation of one where it does not exist, if proposal is supported by a resolution of the legislative assembly concerned.

Legislative Council

Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) of a state comprises not more than one-third of total number of members in legislative assembly of the state and in no case less than 40 members (Legislative Council of Jammu and Kashmir has 36 members vide Section 50 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir). About one-third of members of the council are elected by members of legislative assembly from amongst persons who are not its members, one-third by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state, one-twelfth by electorate consisting of persons who have been, for at least three years, engaged in teaching in educational institutions within the state not lower in standard than secondary school and a further one-twelfth by registered graduates of more than three years standing. Remaining members are nominated by Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service. Legislative councils are not subject to dissolution but one-third of their members retire every second year.

Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of a state consists of not more than 500 and not less than 60 members (Legislative Assembly of Sikkim has 32 members vide Article 371F of the Constitution) chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the state. Demarcation of territorial constituencies is to be done in such a manner that the ratio between population of each constituency and number of seats allotted to it, as far as practicable, is the same throughout the state. Term of an assembly is five years unless it is dissolved earlier.

Powers and Functions

State legislature has exclusive powers over subjects enumerated in List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and concurrent powers over those enumerated in List III. Financial powers of legislature include authorisation of all expenditure, taxation and borrowing by the state government. Legislative assembly alone has power to originate money bills. Legislative council can make

only recommendations in respect of changes it considers necessary within a period of fourteen days of the receipt of money bills from Assembly. Assembly can accept or reject these recommendations.

Reservation of Bills

The Governor of a state may reserve any Bill for the consideration of the President. Bills relating to subjects like compulsory acquisition of property, measures affecting powers and position of High Courts and imposition of taxes on storage, distribution and sale of water or electricity in Inter-state River or river valley development projects should necessarily be so reserved. No Bills seeking to impose restrictions on inter-state trade can be introduced in a state legislature without previous sanction of the President.

Control Over Executive

State legislatures, apart from exercising the usual power of financial control, use all normal parliamentary devices like questions, discussions, debates, adjournments and no-confidence motions and resolutions to keep a watch over day-to-day work of the executive. They also have their committees on estimates and public accounts to ensure that grants sanctioned by legislature are properly utilised.

Structure of State Government

State governments have three branches - the [Executive](#), Legislative, and Judicial - each with specific roles and responsibilities.

Executive Branch

The executive branch comprises the [Governor, Chief Minister, and the Council of Ministers](#). The Governor serves as the ceremonial head of the state, while the Chief Minister leads the elected government and the Council of Ministers assists in decision-making.

Legislative Branch

The law making part of the government is called the legislative branch. In states, it consists of the State Legislature which is divided into two bodies - the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council (in some states only).

Members elected in the Legislative Assembly are called MLAs. They represent the people living in their areas called constituencies. Similarly, in Legislative Council (if a state has one) members are called MLCs.

Judicial Branch

The part of the government that handles legal matters and resolves disputes is called the judicial branch. In a state, the [High Court](#) heads this branch.

The main job of the High Court is to make sure laws made by the Legislative Assembly are interpreted correctly and applied properly. The High Court and lower courts make up the state's judiciary.

Functions and Responsibilities of State Government

State governments perform various essential functions to govern effectively and meet the needs of their citizens.

Law and Order

State governments are responsible for maintaining law and order within their jurisdiction, ensuring the safety and security of their citizens. They oversee police administration and take measures to prevent and combat crime.

Education

State governments manage the state's educational system, including schools and universities. They formulate and implement educational policies, ensuring access to quality education for all.

Health and Welfare

State governments play a crucial role in providing healthcare services and implementing social welfare programs. They strive to improve public health facilities, promote preventive healthcare, and address the welfare needs of marginalized communities.

Infrastructure Development

State governments build and take care of things people need, like roads, bridges, buildings and services. These are called infrastructure. States work to improve towns and villages. This makes life better for people.

Finance and Budgeting

State governments collect taxes and revenues to fund various developmental projects and welfare schemes. They prepare and execute state budgets, ensuring prudent fiscal management and resource allocation.

Interactions with Central Government

States collect taxes and money from people. They use this money to pay for projects and schemes to help people. They make a plan called a budget for how to spend the money each year. States try to spend the money in a smart way.

Challenges and Issues in State Government Administration

State governments face several challenges in their administration, which impact their efficiency and effectiveness.

Corruption and Governance

Corruption poses a significant challenge, affecting transparency and hindering the delivery of public services. Ensuring good governance practices is crucial to address this issue.

Bureaucratic Inefficiencies

[Bureaucratic](#) red tape and delays in decision-making can hamper the implementation of policies and projects. Streamlining administrative processes and promoting accountability can help overcome such inefficiencies.

Political Interference

Political interference in administrative matters can undermine the autonomy and impartiality of state governments. Upholding the principles of democratic governance is vital to mitigate this challenge.

Fiscal Management and Budget Deficits

Balancing budgets and managing finances effectively is a constant challenge for state governments. Addressing budget deficits and exploring innovative revenue generation mechanisms can help alleviate this issue.

Reforms and Innovations in State Government Administration

To overcome these challenges, state governments are adopting various reforms and innovations.

E-governance Initiatives

State governments are leveraging technology to provide online services, enhance transparency

Citizen-Centric Services and Transparency Measures

State governments want to focus their work on citizens' needs. They are providing [citizen-centric services](#) and making government more transparent using technology. This helps build trust and makes governance more responsive.

Administrative Decentralization

Decentralization of administrative powers and decision-making is being encouraged to improve efficiency and bring governance closer to the grassroots level. This empowers local authorities and enables better implementation of policies based on regional needs.

Capacity Building and Training Programs

Enhancing skills, knowledge and professionalism involves continuously learning, updating and improving one's abilities and expertise.

It means gaining new technical skills through training programs, keeping up with latest developments in one's field, and following best practices.

Conclusion

State governments work to meet the basic needs of citizens and improve their quality of life. They strive to make governance more accessible, responsive and citizen-centric. Effectively performing these roles is key to a state's growth and progress.

State governments work to administer and develop their states by delivering public services, investing in infrastructure, utilizing resources prudently, and most importantly, focusing on citizens' needs and welfare.