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INDIAN PARLIAMENT

DEMOCRACY

- Democracy is defined as a form of government in which , supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodic free elections.
- Democracy is not only a form of government but it is also a philosophy of living together.
- The term Democracy has been derived from two Greek words demos and cratia. Demos means the people and cratia means power. In short Democracy means the power of the people.
- Lincoln defines democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people.
- MacIver observes that democracy is not a way of governing whether by majority or otherwise but primarily a way of determining who shall govern and broadly to what ends.
- Bryce defines democracy as a government by the majority of the qualified citizens.

- Democracy is associated with the co-existence of ideas ,with the right to differ, and with the resolution of ideological differences not by bullet but by ballot.
- Democracy as an ideal implies not only a democratic government but it also refers to a democratic society based on peaceful competition of ideas.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

- Principle of tolerance
- Dignity of human personality and provision of various kinds of rights to every individual for the development of his personality
- Liberty and Equality as foundation stones of democracy
- Respect for the rights of the minorities
- Running of the government according to the provisions of the constitution
- Policy of the government to be determined by public opinion
- Consent and not coercion is the basic principle of democracy

FORMS OF DEMOCRACY

- The form of democracy is determined by the nature of relationship between the immediate sovereign and the ultimate sovereign.
- In Direct Democracy the immediate and ultimate sovereign coincide.
- Indirect or Representative Democracy makes a clear distinction between immediate and ultimate sovereign. The electorates enjoy ultimate sovereign authority, whereas the legislature consisting of the elected representatives of the people enjoying the decision making power is the immediate sovereign authority.

CONDITIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF DEMOCRACY

- Active participation of people in the political process
- Mental habit of agreement upon a number of dictums like agreement to differ, majority principle based on the idea of mutual give and take and principle of compromise
- Spread of knowledge and awareness
- Balance in the structure of society
- Strong and vigilant public opinion
- Free expression of opinion and free discussion
- Combination of popular rule with skilled administration

PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL DEMOCRACY

- On the basis of relationship between executive and legislature, democratic governments may be classified as parliamentary and presidential.
- Parliamentary government is based on fusion of executive and legislative powers, whereas, under the presidential system there is separation of powers between executive and legislature.
- In the Parliamentary government, the real executive is responsible to and removable by the legislature, while under the presidential system, the executive enjoys fixed term and it is not subject to removal by the legislature.

FEATURES OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

- Dual executive with a clear distinction between Nominal and Real executive.
- Ministers being the heads of administrative departments are at the same time members of the legislature.
- Council of Ministers is a politically homogeneous body.
- Ministers are responsible to and removable by legislature.
- Executive is collectively responsible to the Popular House.
- Common loyalty and subordination to the Prime Minister.

PRE-REQUISITES OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

- Two party system with a clear and stable majority in the lower house.
- Certain degree of moderation among political parties competing for political power.
- Existence of a strong, responsible and vigilant opposition.

FEATURES OF PRESIDENTIAL DEMOCRACY

- It is based on separation of powers between executive and legislature.
- Executive is not the part of legislature.
- Executive the head of the state and his ministers are constitutionally independent of legislature in respect to the duration of his or their tenure and irresponsible to it for his or their political policies.
- Executive enjoys a fixed term.

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

- India has a parliamentary system of government at the centre as well as in every state. It is modelled on the British pattern. Further there were many advantages in continuing the established institutions.
- The President of India is the constitutional head of the state with nominal powers.
- The union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister constitutes the real executive.
- Ministers are essentially the members of Union Parliament.
- Executive is responsible to the legislature for its policies and term.
- Council of Ministers headed by Prime Minister is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha.
- Lok Sabha can remove the ministers by passing a vote of no-confidence and the Prime Minister has the power to get the Lok Sabha dissolved by the President.

INDIAN PARLIAMENT

- The Indian Parliament consists of the President of India ,Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- The members of both the houses are known as MPs or members of Parliament.
- The Indian Parliament has to meet at least twice in a year.

TWO HOUSES OF INDIAN PARLIAMENT

LOK SABHA, LOWER HOUSE, HOUSE OF PEOPLE

- Maximum strength-552
- 530 members from states and 20 members from union territories and 2 members from Anglo Indian communities nominated by President.
- Members elected for five years.
- Presided by Speaker

RAJYA SABHA, UPPER HOUSE, COUNCIL OF STATES

- Maximum strength-250
- 238 members elected by states and union territories and 12 members nominated by the President.
- Members elected for 6 years
- Permanent house.
- Presided by the chairman-Vice President.

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