

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE IV

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MODULE: XII, CHIEF MINISTER: POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND POSITION

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF CHIEF MINISTER

2. In Relation to the Governor

The Chief Minister enjoys the following powers in relation to the governor:

(a) He is the principal channel of communication between the governor and the council of ministers. It is the duty of the Chief Minister:

(i) to communicate to the Governor of the state all decisions of the council of ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation;

(ii) to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation as the governor may call for; and

(iii) if the governor so requires, to submit for the consideration of the council of ministers any matter on which a decision has been taken by a minister but which has not been considered by the council.

(b) He advises the governor with regard to the appointment of important officials like advocate general, chairman and members of the state public service commission, state election commissioner, and so on.

3. In Relation to State Legislature

The Chief Minister enjoys the following powers as the leader of the house:

(a) He advises the governor with regard to the summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the state legislature.

(b) He can recommend the dissolution of the legislative assembly to the governor at any time.

(c) He announces the government policies on the floor of the house.

4. Other Powers and Functions

In addition, the Chief Minister also performs the following functions:

- (a) He is the chairman of the State Planning Board.
- (b) He acts as a vice-chairman of the concerned zonal council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- (c) He is a member of the Inter-State Council and the National Development Council, both headed by the prime minister.
- (d) He is the chief spokesman of the state government.
- (e) He is the crisis manager-in-chief at the political level during emergencies.
- (f) As a leader of the state, he meets various sections of the people and receives memoranda from them regarding their problems, and so on.
- (g) He is the political head of the services.

Thus, he plays a very significant and highly crucial role in the state administration. However, the discretionary powers enjoyed by the governor reduces to some extent the power, authority, influence, prestige and role of the Chief Minister in the state administration.

CHIEF MINISTER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR

The following provisions of the Constitution deal with the relationship between the governor and the Chief Minister:

1. *Article 163:* There shall be a council of ministers with the Chief Minister as the head to aid and advise the governor on the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion.
2. *Article 164:*
 - (a) The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor and other ministers shall be appointed by the governor on the advise of the Chief Minister;
 - (b) The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the governor; and
 - (c) The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the legislative assembly of the state.

3. *Article 167*: It shall be the duty of the Chief Minister:

(a) to communicate to the governor of the state all decisions of the council of ministers relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation;

(b) to furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the state and proposals for legislation as the governor may call for ; and

(c) if the governor so requires, to submit for the consideration of the council of ministers any matter on which a decision has been taken by a minister but which has not been considered by the council.

Reference:

M.Laxmikanth (2013), Indian Polity, Mc Grow Hill Education, New Delhi