

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE II

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MODULE: II, WINGS OF GOVERNMENT: EXECUTIVE

Types of Executive

1. Nominal/Titular and Real Executives:

The difference between the nominal/titular and real executives is made only in a parliamentary system of government. In it, the head of state, the President or the Monarch, is the nominal executive and the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister is the real executive. All the powers are legally the powers of the nominal executive but in practice these are exercised by the real executive.

The nominal executive is not responsible for its actions as these are performed in its name by the real executive. The real executive is responsible for all the actions of the nominal executive. The nominal executive is the ceremonial and dignified part of the executive, whereas the real executive is its powerful part.

2. Hereditary and Elected Executives:

When the executive assumes office by the law of hereditary succession, it is called the hereditary executive. When the executive is directly or indirectly elected by the people for a fixed period or even for life, it is called the elected executive. In Britain, Japan and Malaysia there are hereditary chief executives. In India, USA, Germany and many other states there are elected chief executives.

3. Single and Plural Executives:

When all the executive powers are in the hands of a single functionary/leader, it is called a single executive. In India, Britain, USA, Australia, France and many other states there are single executives. In India, all the executive powers are with the President of India. Likewise under the US Constitution, the executive powers are with the President of the United States of America.

When the executive powers are vested with a group of persons or in a committee/council/commission and these are collectively exercised by all the members of this commission/council, the executive is called the Plural Executive. As for example, in Switzerland all the executive powers have been given to the Federal Council which consists of seven members. All the members collectively exercise all the executive powers.

4. Parliamentary and Presidential Executives:

The distinction between the parliamentary and presidential executives is made on the basis of relationship between the legislature and executive.

In Parliamentary Executive there is:

- (i) A close relationship between legislature and executive and members of the executive are also members of the legislature,
- (ii) The members of political executive is individually and collectively responsible before the legislature,
- (iii) The tenure of the political executive is not fixed as it can be at any time removed by the legislature, and
- (iv) The legislative can be dissolved by the executive.

In a Presidential Executive, there is:

- (i) Separation of powers between the executive and the legislature;
- (ii) The membership of the two organs is incompatible i.e. member of one cannot be a member of the other;
- (iii) The executive is not responsible to the legislature; and
- (iv) Neither can dissolve nor remove the other.

The parliamentary executives are functioning in India, U.K., Canada, New Zealand, Australia and several other states. In the United States of America, the executive is presidential. In France there is a mixture of these two forms of Executive.

REFERENCE:

<https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/political-science/executive-definition-functions- and-types-of-executive/40360>