

Class: X Chapter 2: The President and The Vice-President

Subject: History and Civics

Ms. Rameet

Diplomatic Powers:-

1. The President appoints Indian Ambassadors to other nations.
2. He receives ambassadors, representatives, High Commissioners from other nations.
3. All treaties and international agreements are signed by him.
4. In the International Conferences the President represents India.

Legislative Powers:-

1. Addresses Sessions of Parliament:-

The President addresses the Parliament at the beginning of the first session of the Parliament after the general elections are over and the first session of each year.

2. Messages to Parliament:-

He can send messages to any House of the Parliament whenever required.

3. Summon and Prorogue the Houses:-

The President can Summon [call meeting] and Prorogue [discontinue] the Parliament and dissolve the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha is a permanent house and so it cannot be dissolved.

4. Dissolve the Lok Sabha:-

The President can dissolve the Lok Sabha and conduct fresh elections. Rajya Sabha is a permanent House it cannot be dissolved.

5. Nomination of Members:-

The President nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha.

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from among people having special knowledge in Literature, science, art and Social Service.

6. Assent to Bills:-

The President's assent is necessary for all the bills passed by the two Houses of the Union legislature so that they can become Acts. A bill is sent to the President for his approval after it is passed by both the Houses.

The President may give his assent or withhold the bill or send it back to the House with recommendations.

However, if the bill is passed in the same form again the President is bound to give his assent.

7. Promulgate Ordinances:-

The President can issue ordinances under two conditions

- (a) When the Parliament is not in session (b) When the President is satisfied that immediate action is needed.

But all the ordinances have to be put before the Parliament within six weeks from its re-assembly. If approved it becomes a law otherwise it becomes null and void or loses its significance.

8. Assent to Some State Bills:-

The Governor can send some state bills for the approval of the President. The President can refuse his assent or he can also send the bill back for reconsideration.

9. Formation of New states:-

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The President can pass a bill for the formation of New states or to change the areas of the states.

Financial Powers:-

1. A Money Bill can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only with the prior approval of the President.
2. The President lays the annual financial statement showing an estimate of revenue and expenditure of the Union before the Parliament.
3. From time to time he appoints a finance commission to recommend the distribution of revenues between the states and the Union.
4. The president controls the Contingency Fund of India. He has the power to order withdrawal of money for any unforeseen expenditure.

Military Powers:-

1. The President is the Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces of India. But the President has to use this power in accordance with the laws made by Parliament.
2. He appoints the chiefs of the three wings of the Armed Forces.
3. The President has the power to declare war and peace according to the directions of the Parliament.

Judicial Powers:-

1. The President is not answerable to any Court for the exercise of the powers and duties of his office.

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2. No criminal proceedings can be started against the President in any court during the term of his office.
3. The President has the power to grant pardon or reduce the punishment that a person receives. He can grant pardons only in the following cases: (a) Where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial; (b) Where the punishment is for offences against Union laws and (c) in all cases of sentence of death.
4. The President has the power to grant pardon, Commute [to change a punishment that is less severe] remit, [to cancel a punishment] respite [a delay in the imposition of sentence] or reprieve [cancel or postpone the punishment of some one] the sentences of any person in case a punishment is given.

children before we go any further its Question time. Please write the answers in your note-book.

Q4. How can the President vacate his office?

Q5. What is an ordinance?

Q6. Who is the supreme commander of the armed forces of India?

Q7. The President of India is referred to as a nominal head of the state. State two examples of his legislative powers that suggest his nominal status.

Discretionary Powers:-

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The President of India usually acts with the aid and advice of the Council of ministers. However he also has some discretionary or special powers.

1. In case of a hung Parliament, the President has the power to decide who should be given the first opportunity to form the government.
2. When the government loses a confidence vote or when the Prime Minister feels that his government no longer enjoys the support of a majority in the Lok Sabha he recommends to the president to dissolve the Lok Sabha. It is then the discretion of the president to either dissolve the House or ask another party to prove its majority on the floor of the House.
3. The President may withhold assent to a Bill or may send it back for reconsideration, if it is not a Money Bill.
4. If the President feels on the basis of the report of the governor of a state or otherwise that a state has failed constitutionally he can declare state emergency.
5. The President can dismiss Ministers in case they lose the confidence in the House.

Home Work:-

1. The President of India enjoys vast powers. In this context, briefly explain:-
(a) Any three of his Executive Powers.
(b) Any three of his Legislative Powers.

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