

9

ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE

We have already learnt that the administration of our country functions at three levels: Local level, State level and Central level. In the previous year, we have learnt about the working of local self-government institutions. In this chapter, we shall learn about how the administration functions at the state level in a democracy. What are the functions of the State Government? What are the roles of Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly? How do people put forward their questions and ideas to the government? How do they ask for the fulfillment of their demands? To understand more about these questions, we shall take the example from the medical field.

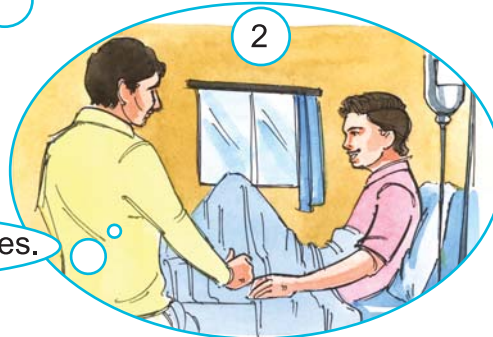
According to the news on T.V., 10 people have died in Surat due to Cholera.

How would I know? The Only thing that I care about is that I am not affected by this.

Can people really die due to an epidemic?



I can hear a procession, outside.



We demand that the administration take immediate measures to control the epidemic. They should pay attention to maintain cleanliness and take steps to stop the epidemic from spreading.

May be it's because people are complaining against the cholera epidemic.



I think the people who are addressing the procession are leaders.



Yes, they are leaders; I have seen them on T.V.

Think

- *Think on the basis of the picture.*
- *Why was the problem of cholera so serious in Surat?*
- *What steps should be taken by the local administration in such a case as mentioned above? What are your views?*
- *If such a situation arises in your locality, whom will you approach to present the case before the Government?*

You have read about the incident of the cholera epidemic. You might have observed leaders of your area presenting health issues to the local health officials, the District Collector or other officials. But have you seen the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of your area? Have you heard about the Legislative Assembly?

The Legislative Assembly members are known as MLA or Member of Legislative Assembly. MLAs are directly elected by the people. After being elected from their constituency, they become the MLAs and form the government. Thus, we can conclude that MLAs are the representatives of the people.

Activity

- *Find out about the MLA of your area. Find out his/her contact number and address.*
- *Make a list of the problems of your area and write a letter to the MLA informing him / her about it.*

All the states of India have a 'Legislative Assembly'. Each state is divided into different constituencies. From each Constituency, one representative is elected by the people. The number of seats in the Legislative Assembly differs from state to state and is decided on the basis of population. Elections are held every 5 years. Candidates can either represent a particular party or stand for election as an Independent candidate. Thus, the MLAs can belong to different parties.

The Legislative Assembly of Gujarat has 182 seats and is situated in Gandhinagar which is the Capital. The Legislative Assembly meets in the Vithalbhai Patel Vidhansabha Gruh.



9.1 Legislative Assembly of Gujarat

Let us learn about how a Minister or the Chief Minister is selected from among the MLAs. The party which has the largest number of MLAs or gains a majority with the support of other parties and / or independent candidates, forms the government. The Governor appoints the leader of the majority party as the Chief Minister. He/she is invited to form the Council of Ministers. The party that forms the Government is known as the Ruling Party while the other party forms the Opposition.

Activity

- ***Discuss these words in the class: Majority, Ruling Party, Opposition Party and Constituency.***
- ***Sometimes the ruling party is not formed not by any one party alone but with the support of other parties and / or independent candidates. What is this type of Government known?***

Think

- ***What is the name of your constituency?***
- ***To which party does the MLA of your area belong?***
- ***Presently, which is the ruling party in the state?***
- ***How many members are required to form the government?***
- ***Mention the work done by the MLA of your area with the grant sanctioned by the government.***

After elections, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers who will be collectively responsible for the administration of the state and the functioning of the various ministries. Each ministry is housed in different office premises. The Legislative Assembly is the place where all the MLAs, belonging to both the ruling party and the opposition assemble for discussions. Many MLAs have dual responsibilities - as an MLA and as a minister.

The other organ of the state government is the Executive, which comprises of the Governor, the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers. The administrative officials who work under the guidance and control of the ministers are also a part of the Executive body. The Council of Ministers are called 'Government Executives' while the administrative officials are known as 'Administrative Executives'.

Governor

Each state of India has a Governor. He/ She is appointed by the President for 5 years after consulting the Prime Minister. The Governor is the constitutional head of the state and the entire administration is carried out in his / her name. The Governor ensures that the state government functions according to the Constitution. The functions of the governor are:

- Invites the leader of the majority party to form the government.
- Administers the oath of loyalty to the Constitution and of secrecy.
- Calls the Legislative Assembly in session and also announces its adjournment.
- Every Bill passed by the State Legislature has to receive the Governor's assent. However, Money Bills require his prior approval.
- A bill undergoes three readings in the Legislative Assembly before it is passed. Following this, it is sent to the Governor before it becomes a 'law'.
- If a Bill is not signed by the Governor and is sent back to the Vidhan Sabha with his suggestions, then the MLAs have to debate on his suggestions. The revised bill is sent back to the Governor for his signature.
- In an Emergency, the Governor can issue orders called 'Ordinances'.
- Appoints the judges of all the courts that work under the High Court.
- Informs to the President about the functioning of the State government.

Chief Minister

The Chief Minister is the Head of the Council of Ministers, a very important position in the State government. He /She is also called the CM. The functions of the Chief Minister are:

- Allotting various portfolios to different ministers for the effective administration of the State.
- Calling for meetings of Council of Ministers at regular intervals.
- Supervising the work of every minister and guiding them.
- Informing the Governor about decisions taken by the Council of Ministers.
- Forming a new Council of Ministers, if necessary.

The Council of Ministers frame policies for allotted subjects or departments related to the State government and executes it. It also introduces the bill in the Legislative Assembly. The Finance Minister of the State introduces the Budget in the Legislative Assembly.

Think

- ***What is the term of the office of the Cabinet?***
- ***How are the ministers responsible for their ministries? Why?***
- ***What will happen if a 'No Confidence' motion is passed against a Minister or the entire Council?***
- ***Collect information about the present Council of Ministers and their ministries.***

The work to be done is divided between the State and the Central government. The State government functions at the State level and the 'Union Government' functions at the National level.

Things to know

- ***There are 29 states in India. Including Delhi, as a national capital. And There are also 7 Union Territories.***

The difference between the State and Central government is the area in which they function. Therefore, the responsibility of a State government is limited to the particular state. For example, the work of the Gujarat State government is limited to its boundary whereas the Central government takes care of the entire nation.

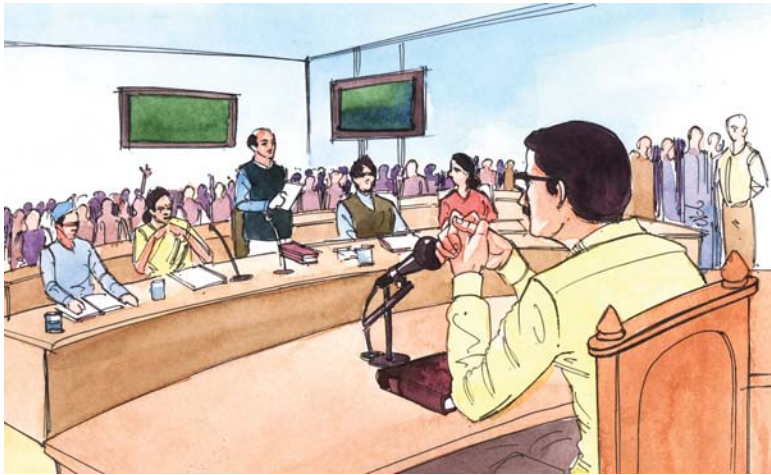
The functions and powers of the State and Central government are divided into three Lists: The Union list, State list and Concurrent list. The subjects included in these lists are mentioned in the Constitution.

Union list	State list	Concurrent List
<p>The subjects handed over to the Union government are included in the Union list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Census - Relations with foreign countries - Defense - Finance and Banking - Election - Formation of Law for citizens - Railway - Telegraph - Post - Insurance service - Sea, Air Road/Rail Route - Nuclear power, etc. are included. 	<p>The subjects related to the state are enlisted in the State list. The state government makes the laws with help of the Legislative Assembly and executives of the cabinet. The list includes - health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture - Forest - Local Self government 	<p>The Union and the State Governments both can form laws for it. There are 47 subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention of crime - Revenue or Tax - Divorce - Literacy - Industry - Employment - Electricity, etc. are included in this list

Legislative Assembly

Marina, Imran and the other students of their school were very excited about their trip to Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat, where they were going to see the Legislative Assembly. After the security check, they went upstairs. There were arrangements made for visitors from where they could see the grand hall downstairs. Seating arrangements for the Members of the Legislative Assembly was made in that meeting hall.

On that day, a current issue was to be discussed in the Legislative Assembly. Usually, in a Legislative Assembly, the MLAs can express their views during a question-answer session. They can ask questions and give suggestions. The members give their feedback on the issue being discussed. Then, the concerned ministers answer the questions and brief them about the measures being taken to solve the issue.



9.2 Question-Answer session in the Legislative Assembly

We often come across on television or in newspapers, the decisions that are taken by the Chief Ministers and other Ministers in order to run the government. While taking a decision about anything, it is necessary to take the permission of the MLAs. In a democracy, the MLAs can question the Chief Minister and the other Ministers and discuss about important matters.

They can even take decisions regarding financial matters and decide on the expenditure to be done in different areas. When the Legislative Assembly is in session, any of the MLAs can ask questions. The Speaker manages the Assembly and one requires his/her permission before presenting anything.

Think

- *If you become an MLA, what different types of work would you do?*

Activity

- *Collect information from your school library regarding the Legislative Assembly. Also, write a sentence about each of the following- Constituency, Majority, Opposition, Ruling Party, Speaker, Budget and Governor.*
- *Read details about the Legislative Assembly in different newspapers and make a scrap book containing newspaper cuttings.*

EXERCISE

Answer the following questions

1. Whom should an MLA address before presenting a question or raising an issue?
2. What will happen if the Governor does not sign the bill?
3. What are the functions of the Council of Ministers?
4. What are the functions of the Chief Minister?
5. Write about the main organs and functions of the government.
6. Why is the Legislative Council known as the Upper House? State which House functions in Gujarat.
7. Make a list of the works that have not been done and which, in your opinion, should be done by the Government?