

## Chapter - 02

### Various Stages of the Government

#### Introduction

The most important responsibility of a Democratic society is to satisfy the needs of the citizens. In the fulfilment of this, government plays a major role. Therefore it is important to examine the role of the government, various stages of it and their responsibilities. In modern society, the needs of people are complicated. Therefore the functions of the government too have become complicated. It is a difficult task for the central government to handle these duties alone. Hence the power has been decentralized administratively and politically, while various institutions have been established at various levels.

This chapter aims at finding out the functions of the central government and the stages of it, their effectiveness, and problems that crop up in their functioning. In addition, the responsibilities of the institutions at various levels, and the responsibilities and duties of citizens are also investigated.

By identifying the responsibilities and roles at various levels, it is possible to produce efficient and effective clients as well as beneficiaries. He or she may be a people's representative, administrative officer, a state officer or an ordinary citizen. The best period to inculcate this idea is the schooling age. If the student is given a good knowledge about duties and responsibilities of a citizen, he or she would grow up to be a responsible citizen armed with great abilities and potential. This chapter supports to make a contribution towards moulding such citizens.

#### Different stages of the Government

Active contribution for the administration of a country, is performed by its government. It is also an establishment that provides the requirements of the country. There are many types of governments. Cabinet, Presidential, Democratic, Federal and Unitary are some of them.

In Sri Lanka, we have a **Unitary system of government** and power has been decentralized under several conditions. The Central Government holds executive powers.

**If the power is concentrated in one central institution or authority, it can be termed as unitary state**

Herman J. Finer

Unitary state means the concentration of power in one central authority. All executive power and power of Justice is held by this Central government. United Kingdom, Japan, France, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal are some examples.

In Sri Lanka, the divisional authorities have a long history. It dates back to the Anuradhapura period.

**Eg.** Uththare Desha, Pashchima Desha, Dakkina Desha etc.

There is evidence about some other types of authorities too. Passa, Rattha, Khanathitha, and Dasagam are some examples.

There is also evidence that during the British Colonial period, there existed local or regional administrative units. The administrative divisions such as Disawa, Korale and Pattu were the regional or local administrative units that existed during that period.

### **Division of Sri Lanka into Provinces**

Under mentioned system was developed in Sri Lanka after British rule. At present there are 9 Provinces and 25 Districts in Sri Lanka.

#### **Western Province**

1. Colombo
2. Gampaha
3. Kalutara

#### **Northen Province**

10. Jaffna
11. Killinochchi
12. Mannar
13. Vavuniya
14. Mullaitivu

#### **North Western Province**

18. Kurunegala
19. Puttalam

#### **North Central Province**

20. Anuradhapura
21. Polonnaruwa

#### **Central Province**

4. Kandy
5. Matale
6. Nuwara eliya

#### **Eastern Province**

15. Batticaloa
16. Ampara
17. Trincomalee

#### **Uva Province**

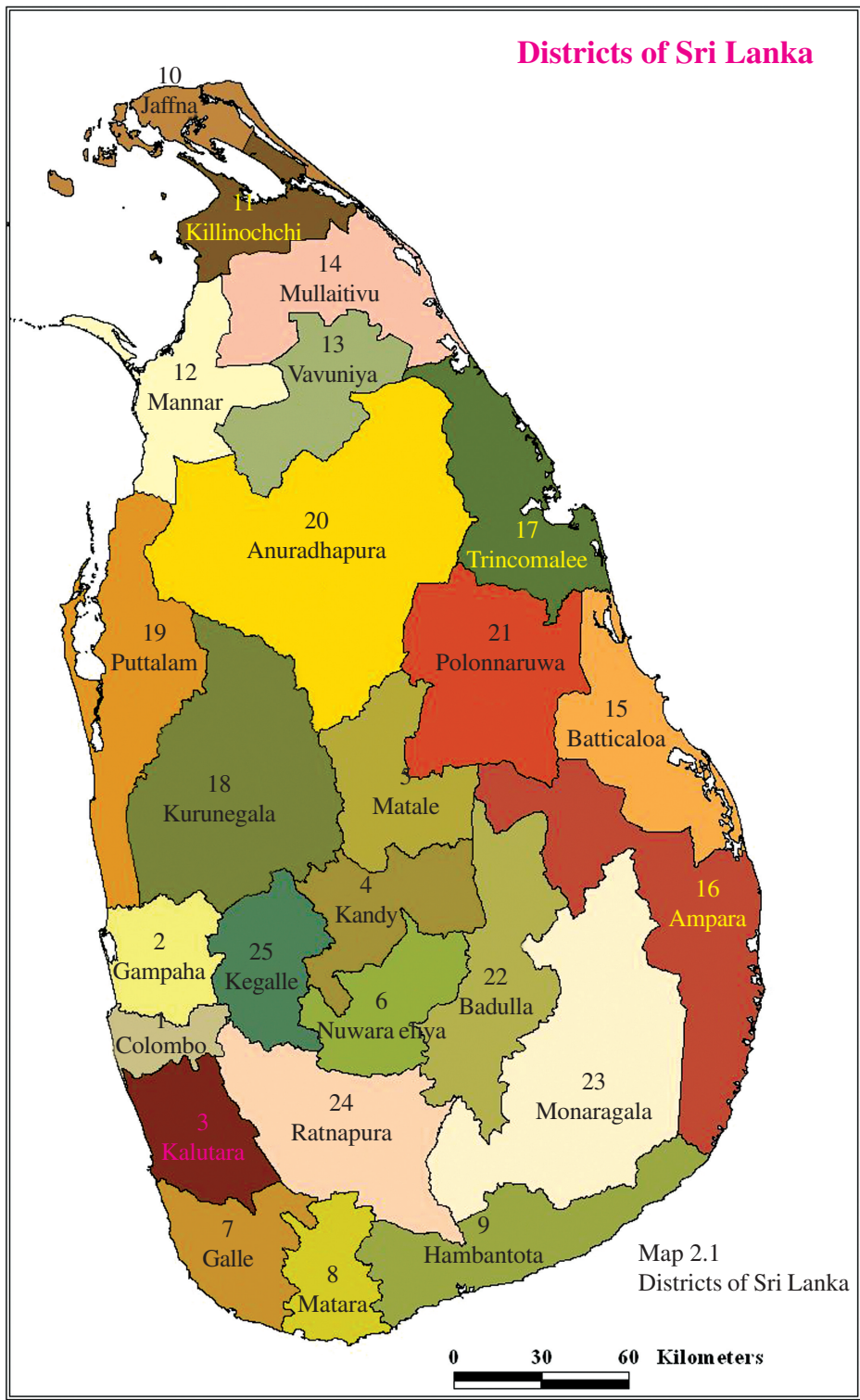
22. Badulla
23. Moneragala

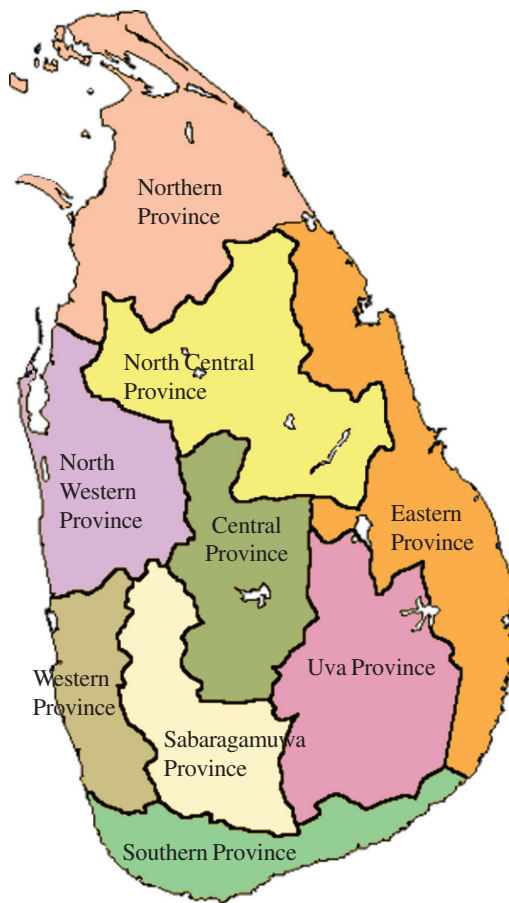
#### **Southern Province**

7. Galle
8. Matara
9. Hambantota

#### **Sabaragamuwa Province**

24. Ratnapura
25. Kegalle





Map 2.2.  
Provinces of Sri Lanka

### District Governance

The administration of a district is known as district Governance. It is done by the following officers and institutions.

Division	Administrative Officer	Institution
District	District Secretary	District Secretariat
Secretarial Division	Divisional Secretary	Divisional Secretariat
Gramaniladari Division	Grama Niladari	Grama Niladari Office

## Provincial Councils of Sri Lanka

According to the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Republican Constitution of Sri Lanka and No: 42 Provincial Council Act of 1987, Provincial Councils were established. The main objective was to decentralize the power and to seek a resolution for the ethnic problem. Every province had to have a Provincial Council. According to the 8<sup>th</sup> statement of the 13<sup>th</sup> ammendment, 9 Provincial Councils were recommended. After the first Provincial Council election in early 1988, 9 Provincial Councils were established.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 1988, the President of Sri Lanka combined both Northern and Eastern provinces temporarily by a special gazette notification. It was mentioned that this combination is effective only for one year and later a final decision can be taken after a referendum. But by 1990, North-East Provincial council became powerless due to the communal riots.

According to the 27<sup>th</sup> Provincial Council Act (ammended) in 1990, the North East Provincial Council was dissolved. In 2006, the Supreme Court announced that it should be regarded as two separate Provincial Councils as North and East.

By establishing the Provincial Councils the executive, legislative and judicial power of the central government was vested in the members of the Provincial Councils, under several limitations.

## Local Administration of Sri Lanka

The duty of the local administration is to get the involvement of public in administrative purposes, and to change the observance of central government according to their needs and also to implement them.

## Estalishment of Local Government Institutions

- 1865 - According to the Municipal Council Ordinance, Municipal Councils were established in Colombo Kandy and Galle.
- 1939 - According to the ordinance, other municipal councils were established.
- 1934 - Village Councils were established.

- 1956 - Town Councils were established.
- 1980 - District Development Councils were established.
- 1987 - “Pradeshiya Sabha” were established.

The reason for the establishment of these local government authorities is to ease the functions of the central government and to accelerate the satisfaction process of public needs.

This system has been developed, and at present, there are 18 municipal councils, 42 town councils and 270 “Pradeshiya Sabha” are functioning in Sri Lanka.

Therefore, present administration of the country is performed by the Central Government, Provincial Councils and local government authorities.

### Assignment 2.1



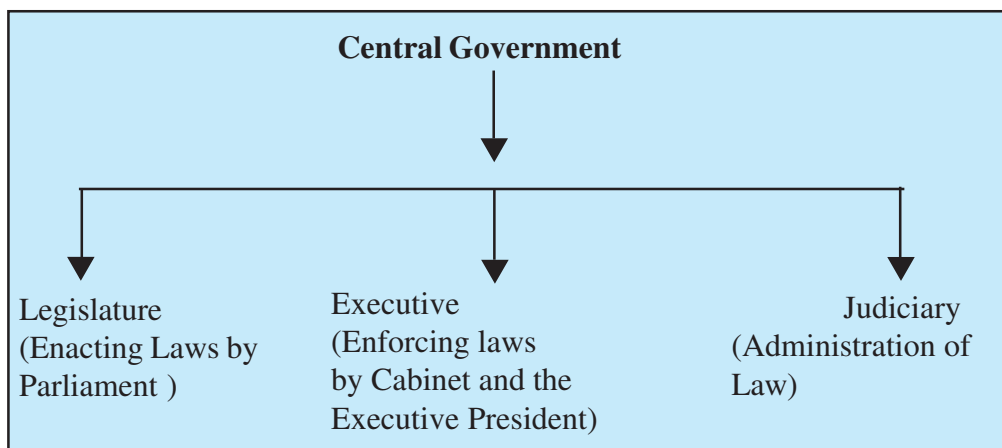
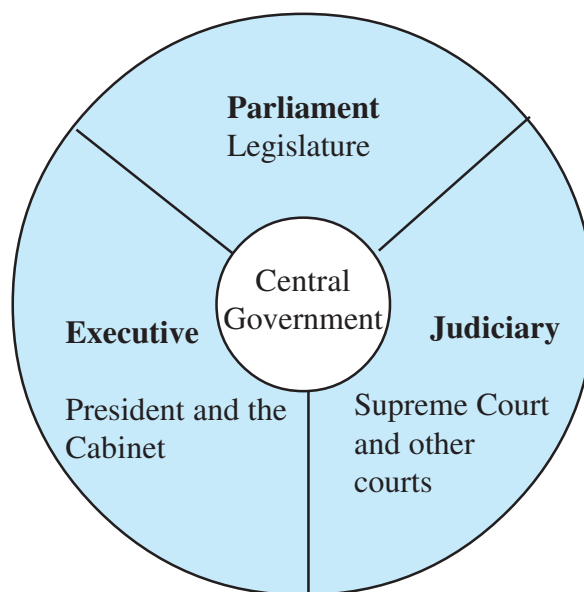
1. Mark the provincial councils in Sri Lanka on a map. Shade the province which you live in that map.
2. Complete this table.

Central Government	Relationships with the citizen
President	-----
Parliament	-----
Judiciary	-----

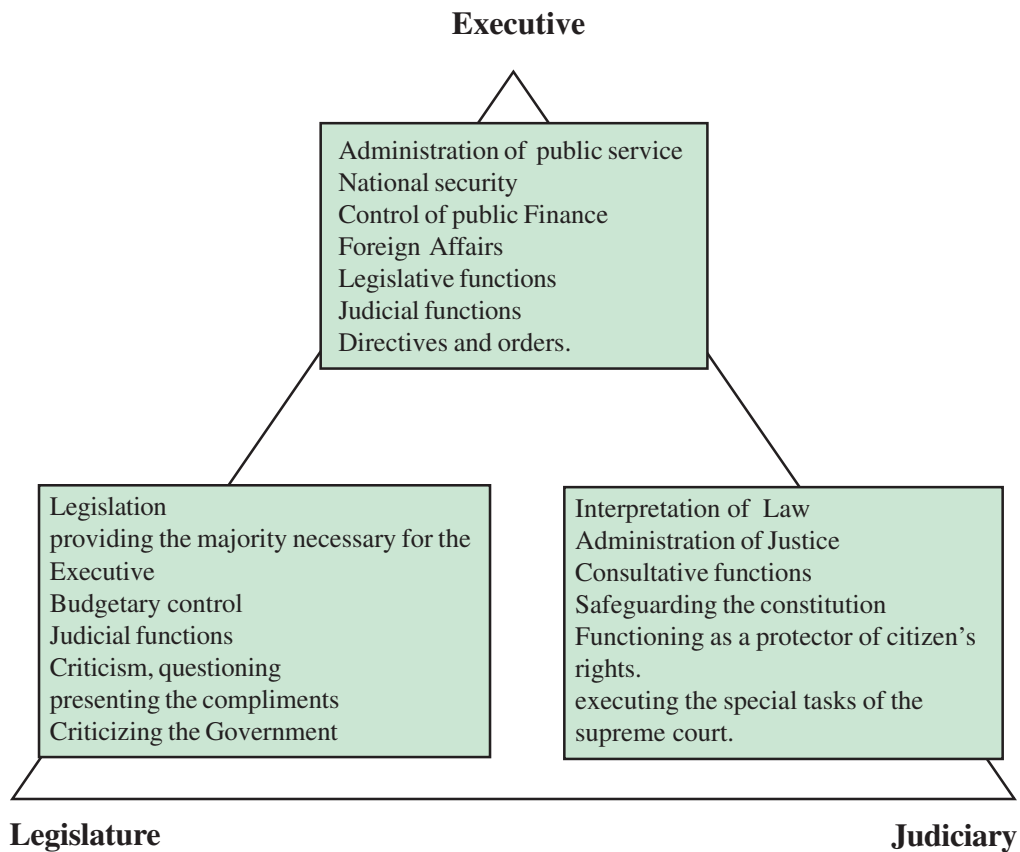
## The functions and powers of the Central Government, Provincial Councils and Local Government Authorities.

### ◆ Powers and functions of the Central Government

As Unitary State the Sovereign power of Sri Lanka is, exercised under the Central Government. The Central Government is made up of three administrative segments Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.



The following table indicates the functions and authority of the central government.



## The Executive

The governing authority of rules- regulations and policies of the government is called the Executive. The Executive President is the leader of it.



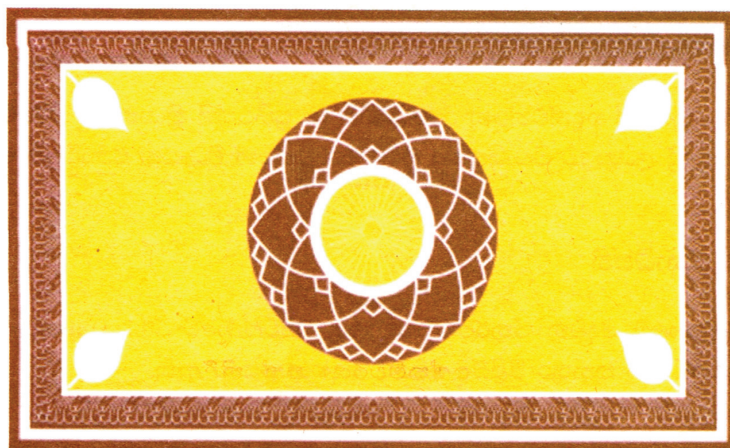
## Executive President

According to the Republican Constitution of Sri Lanka 1987, and Article 30.1, the executive President is described as;

“The President of the Republic of Sri Lanka is the Leader of the state, Leader of the government and the Leader of the forces.”



Picture of the Presidential secretariat



Picture of the President's flag

According to the government constitution, the authority and the functions of the President can be summarized as follows.(33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> statements)

- (1) Holds the power to announce the government policy statement at the parliament.
- (2) Holds the power to chair the inaugural session of the Parliament.
- (3) Holds the authority to appoint Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other High officials and delegation of power to them.
- (4) To protect and use the Government seal.
- (5) To appoint Prime Minister, other Cabinet Ministers, Chief Justice and other Judges,
- (6) To declare war and peace.
- (7) To practice international law, customs and conventions according to the Constitution.

Though the President is not a minister of the parliament, he holds the power to take part in Parliamentary affairs, and also holds the right to all privileges of a minister, other than the voting power in the parliament.

The President also has the authority to appoint the Chief Secretary of the parliament. (According to the 17<sup>th</sup> amendment the consent of the constitutional committee should be obtained)

The President also holds authority to dissolve the parliament, but the parliament cannot be dissolved in the following instances.

- \* Within one year after an election
- \* When an impeachment is being discussed in the parliament.

The President holds authority in several activities of the judiciary too;

- Forgive a victim fully or under several conditions.
- To postpone a punishment.
- To change the punishment to a lesser degree.
- To stop the punishment of any victim who is given a verdict by any Judiciary.
- President also can forgive any member of the Parliament who has performed illegal acts. He can impose conditions if he wishes.



Present (2007) President of Sri Lanka Addressing an International Conference

### Functions of the President

- \* To represent Sri Lanka as its leader at international Society.
- \* To enter into international agreements.
- \* To welcome international deligates.
- \* To award honorific titles.
- \* To appoint Presidential Commissions.
- \* To maintain National Security, To take decisions on war and peace. To administer functions of the police. To appoint the Inspector General of Police according to the 17<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Constitution.
- \* To enforce curfew
- \* To appoint officers for legislative Posts.

Eg: Secretary to the President, Cabinet Secretary, Ombudsman, General Secretary of the Parliament, Ministers of the Election Commission, Members of the Police Commission, Members of the Bribery Commission, Members of the Finance Commission, Members of the State Commission, Chief Justice.

### **As the Executive Head of the state**

- To appoint the Prime Minister and Ministers of the Cabinet, decide and change the portfolios
- To administer the state policies
- To rule the State Service
- To appoint high officials of the state Service

### **As the leader of the Government**

- Leader of the cabinet
- Deciding government policies
- Keep any number of ministries under supervision

### **Assignment**



- 1) “Presidential government with executive powers is more effective than cabinet government, to fulfil the needs of the citizens.” Hold a debate in class on the above topic.
- 2) Write an article to the newspaper on the following topic.  
“The Executive President who is elected directly by the people is directly responsible to the people”

## **◆ Legislature of the Central government (Parliament)**

Laws of the Central government is created by the legislature (Chapter 10 of the Constitution).

Article 62(1) expresses about the parliament as follows;

There shall be a parliament which shall consist of 225 members elected in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

But according to the ammendment made to the Constitution, the Parliament was to consist of 196 members elected from different electorates, and 29 members appointed from the national list increasing the total number up to 225. All the rules and regulations regarding the administration are made by the Parliament.

## The Authority and Functions of the Parliament

\* According to the 75<sup>th</sup> article, Parliament holds power to pass a bill. This process has several stages.

1<sup>st</sup> reading

Either a Mnister of the Cabinet or a Member of the Parliament presents the bill to the Parliament. The General Secretary of the Parliament mentions only the heading of the bill.

2<sup>nd</sup> reading

There can be a debate about the common features and the main factors of the bill. Any changes can be done in this stage.

3<sup>rd</sup> reading

No changes can be done. The members of the Parliament can pass the bill by a majority of votes. It is made a law by the signature of the Speaker.

Article 148 of the constitution states clearly, that passing the **Appropriation Bill** annually, and controlling public finance are the main functions of Parliament.

### Assignment

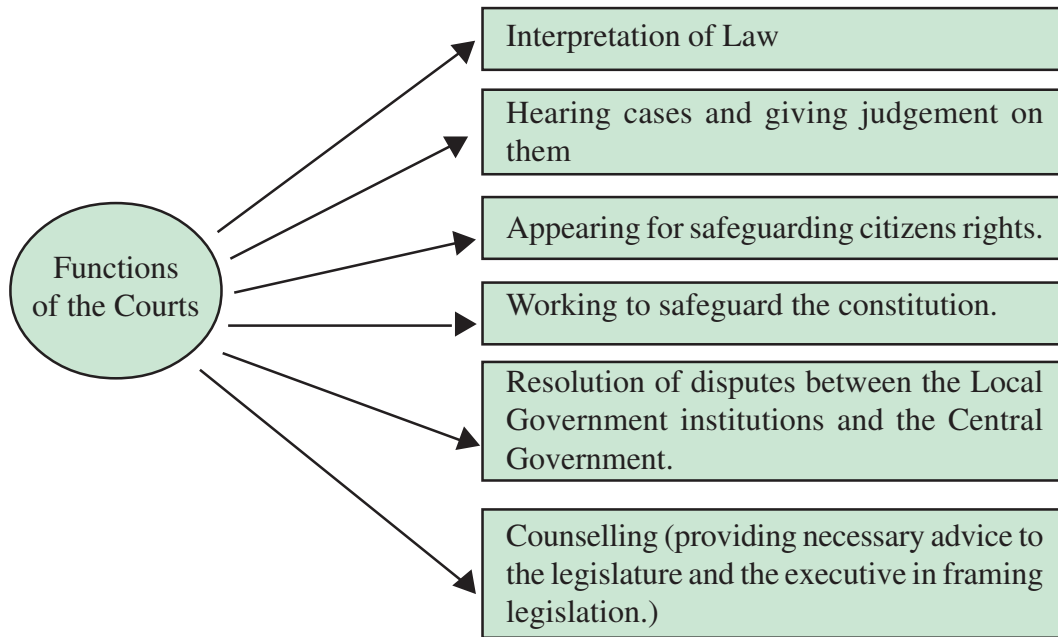


- (1) Some current problems which Sri Lankan citizens are facing are mentioned below;  
Increase in fatal accidents, Murders, Drug Abuse, Environmental Pollution  
Act out a Parliament session in your class and conduct a debate to find solutions. Pass a bill by a majority of votes.
- (2) How does the Parliament spend government funds for the welfare of the people? Prepare a speech on this for the morning assembly.

## ◆ Types of courts, their powers and functions

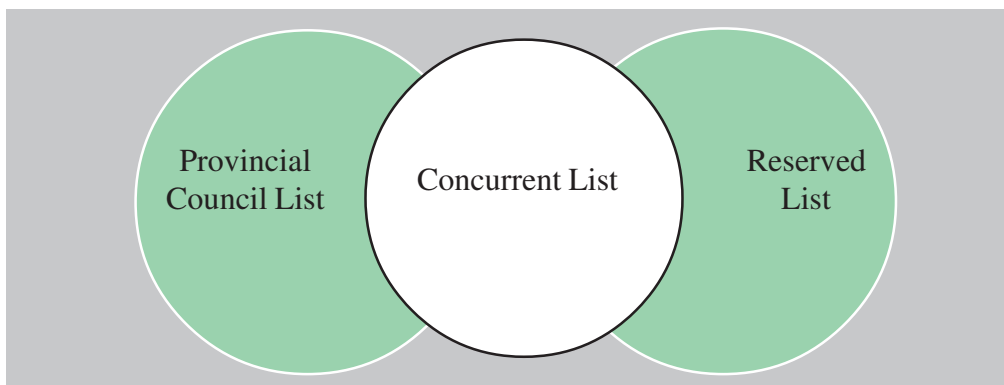
There are many types of Law Courts in Sri Lanka. In general, there are six main functions performed by all these courts. They are given in diagram 1.8

### Functions of the Courts



## Functions of the Provincial Councils and their powers

According to the 13<sup>th</sup> ammendment of the Constitution there are 3 subject lists. By observing these we can identify the functions and powers of the provincial councils.





## **Provincial Council List (List 1)**

The subjects pertaining to the enactments and enforcement of statutes relevant to Provincial Councils are included here. The executive and administrative power of these subjects are held by the Provincial Council. Planning development projects, implementing them and their financial management completely under the Provincial Council.

## **Reserved List (List 2)**

Provincial Councils hold no power to administer these subject areas. The sole authority is held by the Central Government.

## **Concurrent List (Mixed List)**

Both the Central Government and the Provincial Councils hold power to execute plans for the subject areas in this list.

## **Legislative power of the Provincial Council**

The constitution has bestowed executive and legislative power on Provincial Councils. But boundaries are mentioned according to Article 154(G) and the Provincial Council Act of the constitution. Provincial council has the power to make Laws. Once These laws are not valid, until the Governor signs and approves them. These Laws can be enforced only in the relevant province.

Every Provincial Council may subject to the provisions of the constitution, make statutes applicable to the province for which it is established, with respect to any matter set out in the Provincial Council list.

The Provincial Council holds authority to make Laws for the undermentioned tasks. (Provincial Council List - 37 subject areas)

- \* To maintain peace in the areas mentioned by the central government
- \* Planning and implementing development plans
- \* Local government
- \* Construction of buildings in relevant Provinces
- \* Construction of Roads, Bridges & Ferryces of the province
- \* Social service and rehabilitation work of the province

- \* Agricultural and agrarian services
- \* Rural development
- \* Minor irrigation
- \* Health duties of the province ( Except teaching Hospitals & Hospitals for special needs)
- \* Indigenous Medicine
- \* Tourist resorts and rest houses of the area
- \* Pawning centres and markets
- \* Provide and distribute food
- \* Co-operative work
- \* Animal Husbandry
- \* Land
- \* Development of scientific technical & research work in the province
- \* Reformatories
- \* Libraries, cemeteries, museums and historical monuments
- \* Development of mining work and mineral resources
- \* All scientific, religious, trade and literary associations
- \* Clubs functioning without paying taxes should be checked
- \* Any types of action against the law relevant to this list
- \* Illegal production of electricity should be checked
- \* Loans issued under the laws of the central government
- \* Taxes on wholesale and retail trading
- \* Possessing, buying and selling of liquor
- \* According to the laws enacted by parliament to maintain the environment, mitigating pollution

### Concurrent list

According to the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment to the constitution of the Republic of Sri Lanka, 36 subjects belong to the concurrent list. These can be implemented and used along with the Central Government.



The 36 subjects are as follows :

- \* Planning
- \* Education and education services
- \* Higher education
- \* Development of National housing
- \* Ownership of property
- \* Rehabilitation and social services
- \* Agriculture and agrarian services
- \* Planning on public health
- \* Registration of births, marriages and healths
- \* Renaming towns and villages
- \* Exhibitions and state functions
- \* Food wholesale maintenance
- \* Cooperatives and cooperative banking
- \* Surveys
- \* Major irrigation
- \* Fisheries
- \* Animal husbandry
- \* Employment within the province
- \* Tourism
- \* Price controlling
- \* Publishing papers, books and magazines
- \* Controlling drugs and pesticides
- \* Environmental protection

## **Judicial power of the Provincial Councils**

According to the 13<sup>th</sup> ammendment and Article154, the Provincial Council holds authority to maintain Judicial work in the relevent province. Each Provincial Council has a Provincial High Court.

## **Executive power of the Provincial Councils**

The Governor of the Provincial Council holds executive powers. He has the authority to implement laws. He also has authority to execute the powers by himself, through his ministers or subordinate officers. Including the chief minister, he can appoint five ministers for the council.

## **Financial power of the Provincial Councils**

The Provincial Council has the power of financial control. For this the “ Provincial Council Fund” is maintained. This fund recieves income from the following sources.

1. The funds allocated from the annual budget of the central government.
2. Taxes paid to the Provincial Councils.
3. Loans and aid received by the Provincial Council.
4. Funds allocated to the Provincial Councils by the Central Government from the foreign loans and foreign aid.

Before spending the above funds for various needs the Provincial Council should prepare an annual budget, and it should be accepted by the council. The Governor has the final responsibility for the allocation of funds.

## **Authority to implement powers vested on Provincial Councils**

These authorities can be categorised as;

1. Authority to plan and implement development work.
2. Authority to carry out Administration work.
3. Authority of financial control.

In a Provincial Council there are officers belonging to two categories.

1. Officers in the provincial state service  
Eg: Teachers, Clerks etc.
2. Officers belonging to all Island services and released to provincial state service  
Eg:
  - Officers of the Administrative Service
  - Officers of the Education Administrative Service
  - Engineers
  - Accountants

The first type of officers belong to the relevant province. Their administrative power can be distributed among Provincial State service commission, Secretary of the Provincial Ministry, and the Heads of Departments. The final authority of their administration is held by the Governor of the province.

## Assignments



1. In which ways have the Provincial Council supported the development of your area? Consider the following topics.
  - \* Education within the province
  - \* Health within the province
  - \* Road development within the province
2. Write down the main tasks that you would perform for the development of your area if you have the opportunity to be a member of the Provincial Council.

## Power and functions of Local Authorities

There are 3 main institutions regarding local government are functioning in Sri Lanka.

1. Municipal Councils
2. Urban Councils
3. “Pradeshiya Sabha”s

After the implementation of the Provincial Council system in 1987, they were given the authority of Local Government activities within the province.

According to the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987 Pradeshiya Sabha has been established.

Hence, all the local authorities have the responsibility of three main functions and the authority to implement them.

1. Public roads
2. Public health
3. Public utility services

## Authority and functions of the Pradeshiya Sabha

- To perform the duties of the Pradeshiya Sabha counselling committees can be developed under the areas of agriculture, social development, environmental protection and health.
- Appointing officers and labourers needed for the Pradeshiya Sabha, removing them from service their payments and disciplinary actions, can be performed.
- Provide employment opportunities within the province, welfare of the people, develop road systems, ferry and trade centers of the province.

## Authority and functions of Municipal Councils

Municipal Councils are established to govern big cities like Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Dehiwala -Mt.Lavinia, Kurunegala, and Jaffna.

Their functions are;

- \* Cleaning and development of roads,
- \* Construction of roads and bridges

- \* Providing electricity
- \* Building houses for labourers and low income people.
- \* Garbage disposal and water management.
- \* Maintaining markets and trade centres, developing health facilities, prohibiting of selling harmful food items.
- \* Maintain public libraries
- \* Maintaining charity and religious services
- \* Protect public property
- \* Attending to necessary activities in an emergency and eradicating harmful aspects to the society.

### Asssignment



(1) Complete the following table.

The Local authority you belong to	Services received	Your contribution to the services received

(2) Organise a debate on the following topic.  
 "Local Government Institutions have a very close relationship with people. Hence they take all the needs of the people into consideration"

### Previous and present structure of Local Authorities in Sri Lanka

Evolution of the present administration structure of Sri Lanka dates back to 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1815, Sri Lanka became a Colonial state under the British government. Until we received independence on 04<sup>th</sup> February 1948 certain changes and amendments effected by the British rulers are as follows;

\* 1833 Western political Institutes were established under Colebrook reforms.

Eg: The Governor could appoint a Legislative Council to perform the tasks done by Governor.

An executive council could be appointed by the governor to handle the relevant tasks.

\* The Legislative Council that was introduced in 1883 was subject to various changes.

- In 1910 the number of members were increased up to 21
- In 1921 by the legislative reforms the number of members were increased up to 37
- In 1924 members were increased up to 49

\* 1931 under Donoughmore reforms, Sri Lankan citizens were provided opportunity to enter into politics.

### ◆ **Granting of Universal Franchise**

All citizens who were more than 21 years old of age were given the right to vote any political party and the right to elect their representatives.

### ◆ **State Council**

State Council was comprised 61 members. 54 members were selected according to territorial electorates and 4 officers nominated by the governor and 3 more state officers formed the Executive committee which was named State Council. Its main functions were to make the necessary laws and pass the budget of the government.

### ◆ **Executive Committees**

Out of the 61 members of the State Council, except the 3 State Officers and the Speaker, the rest were divided into 7 executive committees. They were given executive power regarding the areas of education, health, agriculture and communicate etc. Several major changes were effected in the legislature of Sri Lanka during the period 1942-1978. A summary of these changes are mentioned in table 2.1. They are summarized as;

The Period between

- 1947-1972
- 1972-1978
- 1978 to present

**Table 2.1- The past and the present state of the Legislature of the Central Government**

Constitutional Institutions	Soulbury Constitution in 1948	First Republican Constitution 1972	Second Republican Constitution Executive presidency in 1978
Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi Cameral system Senate and House of Representatives</li> <li>• Representatives were selected by the vote of citizens</li> <li>• The Governor also nominate some members.</li> <li>• Functions and powers were limited.</li> <li>• According to the 29<sup>th</sup> Article of the Constitution ,the Judiciary and the Governor had power to reject these laws.</li> <li>• Financial power was at maximum.</li> <li>• Could control the Executive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uni -Cameral System This was called National State Assembly.</li> <li>• All members were elected by people's vote.</li> <li>• Power vested to make laws.</li> <li>The Executive and Legislative power and Judicial power were vested in the National State Assembly.</li> <li>• Financial power and Executive power were maximized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uni Cameral System This was called Parliament.</li> <li>• The Parliament consists of 196 members elected by popular vote.</li> <li>• 29 members selected from National list.</li> <li>• Parliament has the power to make Laws.</li> <li>• President also holds power to make or change Laws. (by a referendum)</li> <li>• One and only sole authority with financial power was the parliament</li> </ul>

contd....

Constitutional Institutions	Soulbury Constitution in 1948	First Republican Constitution 1972	Second Republican Constitution Executive presidency in 1978
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British queen holds executive power</li> <li>• The Governor is appointed by the queen. (nominal executive)</li> <li>• The Governor appoints the Prime Minister after an election. (political executive)</li> <li>• The cabinet is recommended by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Governor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presidency was installed. (nominal executive)</li> <li>• The Prime minister holds power to nominate any Sri Lankan citizen as the President.</li> <li>• President is the Leader of the state.</li> <li>• The Prime Minister and the Cabinet hold political and executive power.</li> <li>• They were responsible to the hearing state assembly.</li> <li>• Prime Minister holds power of ruling the state.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The power vested in Prime Minister was taken over by the President. (executive)</li> <li>• President was elected by a presidential election.</li> <li>• President could be removed by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of the Parliament by an impeachment.</li> </ul>



<p>Constitutional Institutions</p> <p>Judiciary</p>	<p>Soulbury Constitution in 1948</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme court was the highest authority in the country, but the British Privy Council was the final appeal court.</li> <li>• Supreme Court had the authority of reviewing Laws.</li> <li>• Judiciary holds power to reject any Law passed by the Parliament.</li> <li>• Judiciary was independent.</li> <li>• The Judicial Service Commission too acted independently.</li> </ul>	<p>First Republican Constitution 1972</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme Court of Sri Lanka was the highest authority.</li> <li>• Has no authority to review Laws.</li> <li>• Judicial service was politicised.</li> <li>• The Judicial Service Commission was dissolved and Judicial Services Advisory Board came into being. Highest authority was the Minister of Justice.</li> </ul>	<p>Second Republican Constitution Executive presidency in 1978</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme Court and Appeal Court were established under the Constitution. Other judicial institutions were established under a Parliament Act.</li> <li>• Supreme Court has the highest authority.</li> <li>• Authority was vested in Supreme Court.</li> <li>• Judicial Service Commission is restored. (17<sup>th</sup> amendment)</li> </ul>
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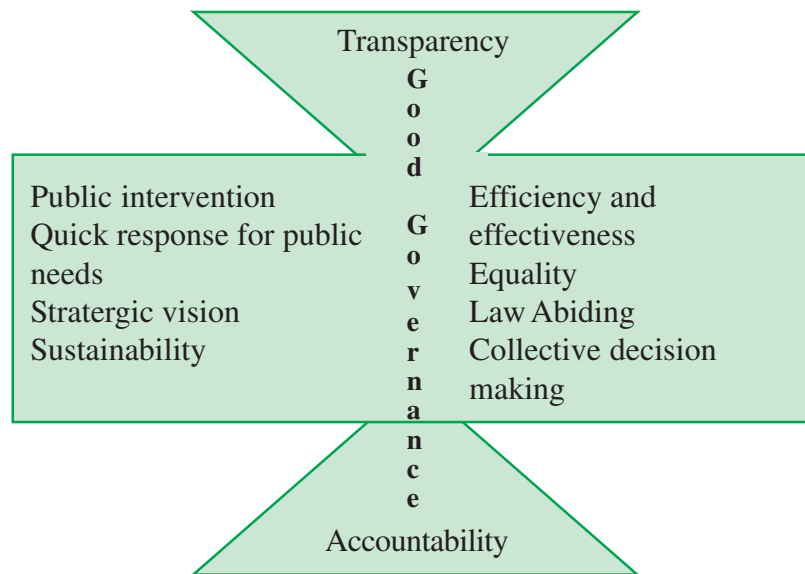
## The past and present situation of Local Government Institution

In 1987 since power which was in the hands of the Central Government was vested on Provincial Councils. Here, we will consider how the local government authorities were organized before 1987.

Period of 1947-1980	After 1980
1947- Municipal Councils	Not changed
1939- Urban Councils	Not changed
1939 - Village Councils	Changed
Town Councils	Changed
1980- District Development Councils	Changed Pradeshiya sabhas were established
1987- Provincial Councils	Local Governance was vested in Provincial Councils. The Minister for local government holds the authority regarding undermentioned functions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Common Administration</li><li>• Health</li><li>• Physical Planning and roads</li><li>• Drinking water</li><li>• Essential Services</li><li>• Welfare Services</li><li>• Electricity</li></ul> After 1990 electricity was taken over by the Central Government. Since then only 6 subjects are functioning.

## Concept of good governance

To accelerate and strengthen the functions of local governing authorities the concept of “Good Governance” has been introduced. The main characteristics of good governance can be illustrated as follows;



### Assignment



1. List out the good and bad qualities of various governing levels comparing the past and present structures.
2. Make suggestions to avoid weaknesses in the present structure.

## Reasons for decentralizing power

### To provincial councils;

- \* Delegating power to the public, within the concept of a unitary state.
- \* Certifying cultural and linguistic identification of various ethnic groups.
- \* Building a close relationship with the public for development activities in the province.

- \* Getting the maximum utilization of regional resources.
- \* Accelerating social and human development through public participation.
- \* Facilitating and easing the living pattern of the people.
- \* Giving opportunity to the public to represent themselves in governing authorities.

### **To Local Government Authorities;**

- \* Enabling the majority of people in the province to participate in decision making.
- \* Creating avenues for the provincial leaders to participate in national leadership.
- \* Identifying priorities by lower levels of governance.

### **Problems created in decentralizing power**

It is appreciable that the local government authorities are performing effectively. The Provincial Council too are serving to produce an efficient service. The main aim of decentralization is to widen the public intervention in administration and also to act according to the regional variations.

But some limitations arise when functioning, according to the delegated powers. Although the central government decides the policies, every province does not have enough facilities to function those effectively. Further much of the power is still under the Central Government.

There are some financial barriers to the implementation of these plans.

Several subject areas are vested in several institutions. Due to the multiplication of the duties, responsibility and accountability are not specific.

## Effectiveness of local government authorities

The most prominent function of Local Authorities is to conduct public utility services. They have the authority to allocate funds for these services. Here we can consider how effectively this task is performed by these institutions.

- ◆ Spend money to accelerate development activities
- ◆ Councils can decide the amount according to the necessity

Eg- Rs 5000 per Pradeshiya Sabha

Rs 10000 per Town Council

Rs 15000 per Municipal Council

The money spent so far has had a low contribution towards national productivity. As a solution to this issue, the concept of “Good Governance” has been introduced.

The Garbage Management system in Sri Lanka is still not effective.

Introducing measures to prevent infectious diseases.

Improving infant and maternal health through maternity and child care clinics.

Providing houses for disadvantaged people.

Developing drinking water and drainage facilities.

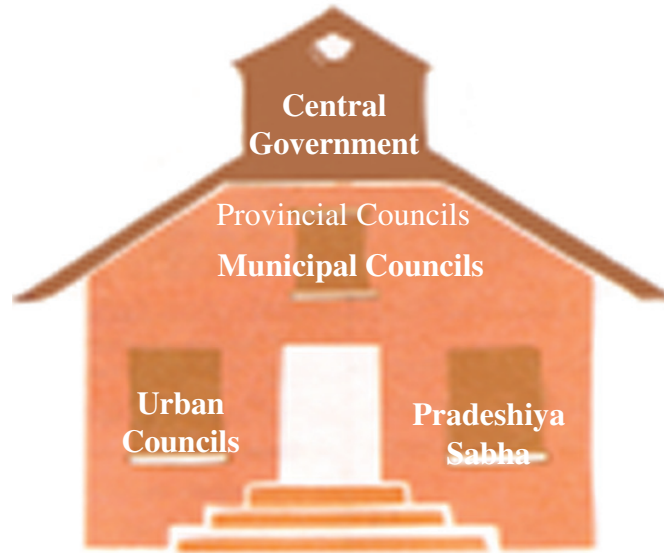
To overcome all these issues, a good state service together with honest officials should be maintained.

### Assignment



Write an article to a wall newspaper on the topic “The services rendered by a Local Government Institution”

**Responsibility and accountability of various levels of the Government to the citizens and duties and responsibilities of citizens regarding those institutions**



**Responsibilities and accountability of various institutions**

**To ensure National security**

Ensuring national security is a main responsibility of the Central Government. Thus all levels of government should support in this task. Government should take steps to eradicate insurgency, criminals and thefts, nationally as well as internationally.

**Economic development**

Central Government should implement plans to upgrade the living standards of citizens with the collaboration of Local Government Authorities. In this attempt areas such as agriculture, industries ,services, infra structure facilities, introducing new technologies,widening the market facilities and tourism industry should be taken into consideration.

**Upgrading welfare activities**

It is an important and major responsibility of a Government to ensure the welfare of citizens. According to the national policies local authorities also should contribute and to these. Preventing infectious deseases, providing health facilities, practice good hygienic methods, providing the major necessities such as housing and drinking water and eradicating poverty are the major issues

## **Duties and responsibilities of citizens**

- Contribute to maintain national security
- Contribute towards economic growth
  
- To engage in a profession
- Prevent wasting of common resources through bribery and corruption
- Knowing about new trends and using them effectively
- Protecting National Dignity
- Take care of national heritages and conserving them
- Contribute to national welfare
- Caring and giving affection to elders
- Give protection to old, unemployed and needy people
- Correct usage of services supplied by the government

## **Engage in social management**

- Contributing to minimize social conflicts
- Solving problems in a peaceful manner
- Listen to and respect others
- Living in peace and harmony with each and every ethnic group
- Solving labour disputes in a just manner by employers
- Employees should resolve their problem through discussion without resorting to violence.
- Act honestly in receiving aid and services

## **Involve in environment management**

- Love and protect the natural environment
- Not to destroy the environment and preventing others doing so
- Apply appropriate methods in garbage disposal
- Not to release radioactive matter to the environment
- To be a professional person through knowledge

## **Highlight the instances where regional development activities should take place**

## Assignment



In your option who should bear the responsibility and accountability regarding following instances.

- (i) When an area is flooded due to illegal constructions.
- (ii) A traffic Jam is caused due to the illegal acquiring of a part of the road by tenants.
- (iii) An accident occurs at a unsecured railway crossing.
- (iv) Misuse of votes at a polling booth.
- (v) About 50 small houses are destroyed due to high waves as a result of coral mining.
- (vi) A number of people rendered homeless due to an earth slip threat.
- (vii) Citizens subjected to diseases caused by the wrong garbage disposal methods.

## 7.6 Summary

- √ Sri Lanka is a Unitary State.
- √ Administration of the country has been decentralized for effectiveness.
- √ Several authorities at various levels such as Provincial Councils and Local Government Institutions were vested with power.
- √ Functions of the central government can be categorized as Legislative, Executive and Judicial.
- √ Under the 13<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Provincial Councils have been established in 1987.
- √ There are several reasons for decentralizing power.
- √ Several problems may occur when power is decentralized.
- √ Local government authorities play a major role in satisfying public needs.
- √ Various levels of the government have a great responsibility and accountability to citizens.
- √ Citizens too have to understand their responsibilities as well as duties.