**Chief Minister**

India is a federal country where provincial or state governments are working at second tier of political system. The real executive of state government is known as Chief Minister. Before 26Jan.1950, this office was known as Pradhan mantri.

**Qualifications-**

There is no specific qualification is mentioned in the constitution of India, however he/she must be member of state legislature (if not at the time of appointment then be elected in six months). The Chief Minister is appointed by the governor. Art. 164 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at its hand to aid and advice the governor.

**Power and Duties-**

Once the election to the Legislative Assembly is over the task of forming the government begins. The party with the majority in the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) is entitled to form the government. It is upon his recommendation that ministers are appointed. However, some of the important powers and functions of the Chief Minister are as under-

The Chief Minister holds a pivotal position in the working of the State Government. He has enormous powers and vast responsibilities.

**1. to Aid and Advice the Governor:**

The Chief Minister is the link between the Cabinet and the Governor. It is he who communicates to the Governor all decisions of the Council of Ministers. He has to furnish such information relating to the administration of the State as the Governor may call for.

The Governor can submit to the consideration of the Council of Ministers any matter on which decision has been taken by a Minister but which has not been considered by the Council of Ministers.

The Governor appoints a large number of top officials of the State. He also summons and prorogues the sessions of State Legislature. All such powers are exercised by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister, however, has no right to give advice to the Governor in relation to the functions which he exercises in his discretion.

2. The Chief Minister is at the Head of the Council of Ministers:

As Head of the State Cabinet, the Chief Minister enjoys the following powers-

**(i) Formation of the Ministry**

The other Ministers are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister has a free hand in preparing the list of his colleagues. The Governor may suggest the names of the persons to be included in the Ministry, but he cannot insist upon any person to be included in the Ministry. Assigning departments or portfolios to the Ministers is done by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.

**(ii) Removal of Ministers**

The Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Governor. This, however, does not mean that the Governor can dismiss his Ministers at his will. The Government is in fact dependent on the Chief Minister. Therefore, the Chief Minister can reconstruct his Ministry as and when he likes. He may ask anyone of his colleagues to resign. If he declines, he will be dismissed by the Governor.

(**iii) The Chief Minister Presides over the Meetings**

As Chairman of the Cabinet, the Chief Minister has a position which enables him to impose his decision. It ‘is he who controls the agenda for the Cabinet meetings. It is for the Chief Minister to accept or reject proposals for Cabinet discussion.

**(iv) Co-ordinates the Working of various Departments**

The Chief Minister supervises and co­ordinates policies of the several Ministers and Departments. Several ministries are involved in the formulation and implementation of a policy.

The Chief Minister must bring these activities into reasonable relationship with one-another. In matters of public order, roads and bridges agriculture, land revenue and production, supply and distribution of goods, he plays a special role in directing the policy of the Government.

**3. The Chief Minister is the Leader of the House:**

The Chief Minister is the leader of the State Legislative Assembly. All principal announcements of policy are made by him. The Chief Minister intervenes in debates of general importance. He can appease an angry House by promising immediate relief or concessions when needed.

**Position of the Chief Minister**

The Chief Minister’s position is pre-eminent in the State governmental system. In practice, his position will be imposing only when his party commands a clear majority in the State Legislature.

When it is a coalition government, it becomes difficult to safeguard the principle of collective responsibility also. Much of the time and energy of the Chief Minister will, in that case, be wasted on keeping his team united and sufficiently disciplined.

**Source-** <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/the-chief-minister-appointment-power-function-and-position/24905>

**Also see**

1. Website of CM, Raj- <https://cmo.rajasthan.gov.in>
2. Website India Govt.- <https://www.india.gov.in>
3. Books mentioned in previous material.

**Questions**

**Very Short answer /**

* **What do you mean by Chief minister/real executive/state legislature?**

**Short answer**

* **Explain qualifications for the office of Chief Minister.**

**Long answer**

* **Describe the powers and duties of Chief Minister.**