

1. WRITE A BRIEF NOTE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORIES IN INDIA.

Articles 239 to 241, in Part VIII of the Constitution of India, deal with the union territories. Even though all the UTs belong to same category, there is no uniformity in administrative system.

Every UT is administered by the President acting through an administration appointed by him. The administrator is a direct agent of the President and not head of state like a governor. The designation of the head administrator is Lieutenant Governor, Chief Commissioner, Administrator etc.

The President can appoint the governor of a state as the administrator of an adjoining UT. In this capacity, the governor can act independently of his council of ministers.

Although UTs have the option of forming respective governments and having a Legislature with elected Members and a Chief Minister (like New Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir), yet the powers of such governments are lesser than the state governments.

The Parliament can make laws on any subject of the three lists. This power of Parliament also extends to Puducherry, J & K, Delhi which have their legislatures.

According to Article 240, the President of India has the power to make regulations for certain UTs. The regulations could be for peace, progress and good government of the UT. In case a UT has a Legislature in place, the President shall not have the authority to make any regulation with effect from the first day of the meeting of the Legislature.

The Parliament can establish a High Court for a UT or put it under the jurisdiction of the High Court of adjacent state. Delhi has had a high court of its own since 1966. Jammu and Kashmir, which has become a UT in 2019, has also got a High Court.

The constitutional provisions for the administration of UTs are also applicable to acquired territories.