

**1. THE POSITION OF THE INDIAN PRESIDENT IS NOT THAT OF A RUBBER STAMP. ELABORATE.**

The President of India has an elevated standing as head of the Republic of India and should be a voice for sanity and fairness. The president is the defender, protector and preserver of the Constitution of India. He also takes oath to devote himself/herself to the service of the people. He not only has to exercise his or her own judgement, and to recognize that within the provisions of the Indian Constitution, he or she has much bigger role than simply rubber stamping his decisions taken by others. S/he can be tough and effective in asking the government to reconsider its priorities, especially when rights and fair treatment of countrymen are threatened and when education, science, development and freedom of thought are undermined. An enlightened and strong President has many things to do and of course, not that of a rubber stamp.

When dictates of the Centre run counter to the legitimate rights and the traditional sphere of the States, the President certainly has a protective role that cannot be obliterated by the commands of the centre.

In an era of coalition governments at the Centre, the President's role is crucial. He may act on his own discretion in certain cases such as the appointment of the Prime Minister in a hung Lok Sabha, dissolution of the lower house and dismissal of the Government when it loses the support of the majority and refuses to quit.

Within his or her constitutional as well as evocative roles, a strong President can make a major contribution in inspiring us to stand up for fairness for all sections of the people. If the nation as a whole asks anything from the President except being a rubber stamp, it is very likely to get nothing more than a decorated rubber stamp.