

1. “PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL OVER THE EXECUTIVE IS A MYTH.” COMMENT.

Parliament of India is the supreme law-making body. It exerts control over the government through various means. However, the parliamentary control over governance and administration in India is more theoretical than practical. In reality, the control is not as effective as it ought to be.

Parliament is devoid of required time and expertise to control over the administration which has grown in volume as well as complexity to cope with changing time. Parliamentary control over finance is marred by the technical nature of the demands for grants. The parliamentarians being laymen cannot understand them properly.

Under a parliamentary democracy, legislative leadership lies with the executive and it plays a significant role in formulating policies.

The majority enjoyed by the executive in the Parliament reduces the possibility of effective criticism.

The find-outs of various financial committees and the report of the CAG are post-mortem in nature hence, they have negligible impact on the executive. Increased recourse to ‘guillotine’ reduced the scope of financial control. Emergence of ‘delegated legislation’ has drastically reduced the role of Parliament in making detailed laws and has increased the powers of the bureaucracy.

Ordinances promulgated by the President under Article 123 dilute the power of the Parliament.

In the absence of strong and steady opposition and diminishing parliamentary ethics and behaviour there has been a perceptible decline in the effectiveness of parliamentary control over administration in India.

The mere proposition for parliamentary control over executive and constitutional sanction behind it does not amply make such control concrete. The executive being part and parcel of Parliament and with solid majority at hand many a time overlooks or bypasses parliamentary role play in every legislative activity.