

Q3.

The centre has much more powers than the states in India. In this context analyse the centre state relations in India. (250 words).

Ans.

The Constitution of India establishes a federal system of government as it contains all the features of a federation like written constitution, division of powers, supremacy of constitution, dual administration etc. However, Indian constitution also contains a large number of unitary or non-federal features, which are as follows:-

FEATURES OF CONSTITUTION WHICH SHOWS THAT CENTRE HAS MUCH MORE POWERS THAN STATES :-

(1) EMERGENCY PROVISIONS -

During an emergency, the central govt becomes all powerful and the states go into the total control of the centre. It converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the constitution.

(2) NO Territorial integrity with states -

The Parliament can change the area, boundaries or name of any state by its unilateral action.

(3) Appointment of Governor -

Governors are appointed by President on the advice of central govt and not the state govt. This is the reason for governors not being the residents of the state.

(4) ARTICLE 356 -

In administrative matters state cannot go against central laws like ARTICLE 356. Also, central govt. can impose emergency in any state if it feels that state is not being governed constitutionally.

(5) Division of Power -

The division of power is in favour of the centre and highly inequitable from the federal angle. As the Union List contains more important subjects (like defence, currency, external affairs, citizenship, railways) than the state list, the centre has overriding authority over the Concurrent List and the residuary powers have also

been left with the Centre.

(6) Flexibility of the Constitution -

The bulk of the Constitution can be amended by the unilateral action of the Parliament and the power to initiate an amendment to the Constitution lies only with the Centre.

CONCLUSION - Therefore, it would not be wrong to conclude that the Constitution of India is federal in structure and unitary in spirit i.e. it is quasi-federal in nature for the maintenance of integrity and to serve the specific needs of the country.