

SYMBOL OF OUR FREEDOM— THE FLAG

The Flag of India is the Symbol of her freedom. Behind it lies the epic story of her non-violent struggle for independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

The tricolour, which substituted the Union Jack on State buildings from August 15, 1947, was adopted as the Nation's Flag by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947. The resolution described the Flag as a horizontal tricolour of deep saffron (kesari), white and green in equal proportion with a wheel in navy blue in the central band. The design of the wheel is that of the *Dharma Chakra* on the abacus in the Lion Capital of Sarnath.

The Flag was presented to the Nation by the women of India at the memorable midnight session of the Constituent Assembly on August 14, 1947.

The tricolour with the emblem of the Charkha was the banner of freedom held aloft by thousands of Desh-sevaks and Desh-sevikas since 1921 when Mahatma Gandhi launched the non-co-operation movement. Then the colours on the flag were red, white and green. The Indian National Congress in 1931 changed the colours into saffron, white and green with the Charkha in blue across the white band. This was adopted by the Congress in 1933 as the flag of the nation.

The Asokan Chakra displaced the Charkha when the tricolour was made the State Flag. One reason for the change was that the symbol on one side of the flag should exactly be the same on the other side.

The choice of the *Dharma Chakra* from the Lion Capital of Sarnath was influenced by many considerations. The Chakra is nearly the same as the Charkha, but without the spindle and the string. Apart from being artistic, the *Dharma Chakra* represented India's age-long tradition and culture and was associated with Asoka whose memory is

cherished not only in India, but in China, Tibet and other Asian countries. The Asokan wheel, as Professor S. Radhakrishnan explained, represented the Wheel of Law—the *Dharma* which was perpetually moving, indicating that there was death in stagnation while there was life in movement.

According to the Professor, the saffron colour on the Flag represented the spirit of renunciation, the white truth and purity, and the green our relation to the earth on which all life depends.

"This Flag", Pandit Nehru said, while introducing the resolution in the Constituent Assembly, "is not a flag of empire, a flag of imperialism, a flag of domination over anybody, but a flag of freedom not only for ourselves but a symbol of freedom to all people who may see it. Wherever it may go—and I hope it will go far—not only where Indians dwell as our ambassadors and ministers but across the far seas where it may be carried by Indian ships—where-ever it may go, it will bring a message, I hope, of freedom to those people, a message of comradeship, a message that India wants to be friends with every country of the world and India wants to help any people who seek freedom."

Mrs. Sarojni Naidu who followed him said: "Remember, under this Flag, there is no prince and there is no peasant, there is no rich and there is no poor. There is no privilege; there is only duty and responsibility and sacrifice. Whether we be Hindus or Muslims, Christians, Jains, Sikhs or Zoroastrians and others, our Mother India is an undivided heart and one indivisible spirit. Men and women of reborn India, rise and salute this Flag! I bid you, rise and salute the Flag!"

THE EMBLEM OF OUR REPUBLIC

The Emblem of our Republic, which is a replica of the Lion Capital of Sarnath, has, from January 26, 1950, replaced the Crown on State buildings, structures, furniture and the like. The State Emblem is a symbol of India's ancient and unique culture.

THE symbol shows the profile of the Lion Capital as it exists today. The crest of the Emblem consists of the three lions on an abacus which has in bas-relief the *Dharma Chakra* in the centre, a bull on the right and a horse on the left and the outlines of the *Dharma Chakras* on the extreme right and left. The bell-shaped lotus below the abacus in the sculptured Lion pillar has been omitted.

The motto "*Satyameva Jayate*"—"Truth alone triumphs", in Devanagari script, is included underneath the crest. The motto is taken from the Mundaka Upanishad, an ancient scripture. It embodies a cardinal principle of Mahatma Gandhi and is acceptable to men of all religions.

The Sarnath Lion Pillar, which dates from the 1st century B.C., is associated with Asoka, one of the most magnificent names not only in India's history, but in world history. H. G. Wells wrote: "Amidst tens of thousands of names of monarchs that crowd the columns of history, their majesties and graciousnesses and serenities and royal highnesses and the like, the name of Asoka shines, and shines almost alone, a star".

The Asokan period in Indian history was essentially an international period. Pandit Nehru has pointed out that this was a period when India's ambassadors went abroad "not in the way of empire or imperialism but as ambassadors of peace and culture and goodwill".

The Lion Capital was erected to mark the spot where Lord Budha first proclaimed his gospel of *Ahimsa* and love to "the four quarters of the universe".

The choice of the Sarnath Lion Capital as the crest of the Emblem of the new Republic of India highlights India's objective of universal peace and brotherhood. It is in keeping with India's resolve to uphold her ancient heritage and spirit of toleration and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

The *Dharma Chakra* in the abacus of the capital which represents the wheel of Law, embodies a great ideal—the Law which is the king of kings, which even monarchs have to obey.

The *Dharma Chakra* appears also on the Indian National Flag.

The Preamble

"WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, Social, Economic and Political, LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity, and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation;

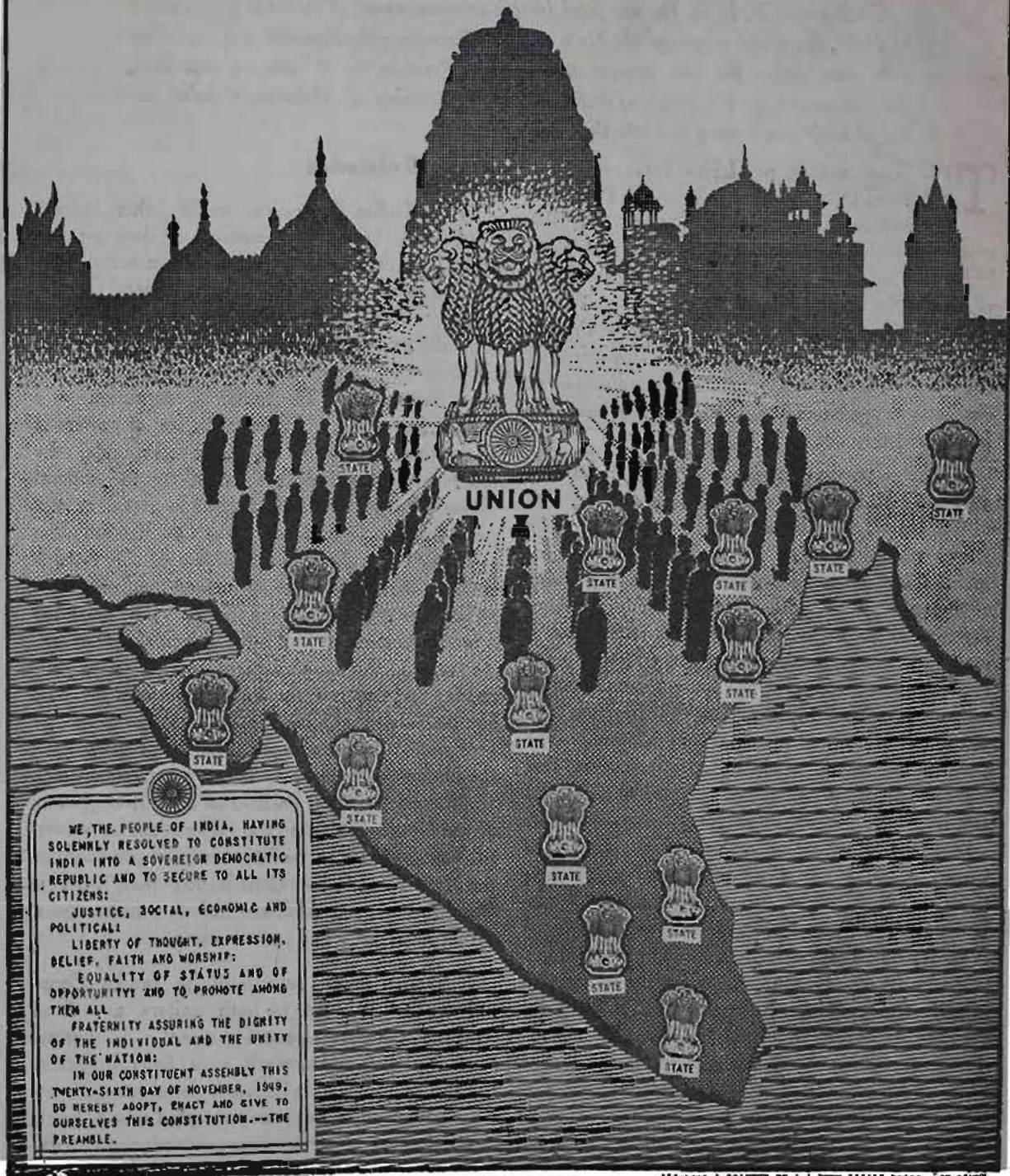
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION."



सत्यमेव जयते

REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FEDERAL & SECULAR



WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, HAVING SOLEMNLY RESOLVED TO CONSTITUTE INDIA INTO A SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND TO SECURE TO ALL ITS CITIZENS:
JUSTICE, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL;
LIBERTY OF THOUGHT, EXPRESSION, BELIEF, FAITH AND WORSHIP;
EQUALITY OF STATUS AND OF OPPORTUNITY; AND TO PROMOTE AMONG THEM ALL
FRATERNITY ASSURING THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE UNITY OF THE NATION;
IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY THIS TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1949, DO HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.--THE PREAMBLE.

JUDICIARY



PRESIDENT

APPOINTS CHIEF JUSTICES AND JUDGES OF SUPREME COURT AND OF HIGH COURTS



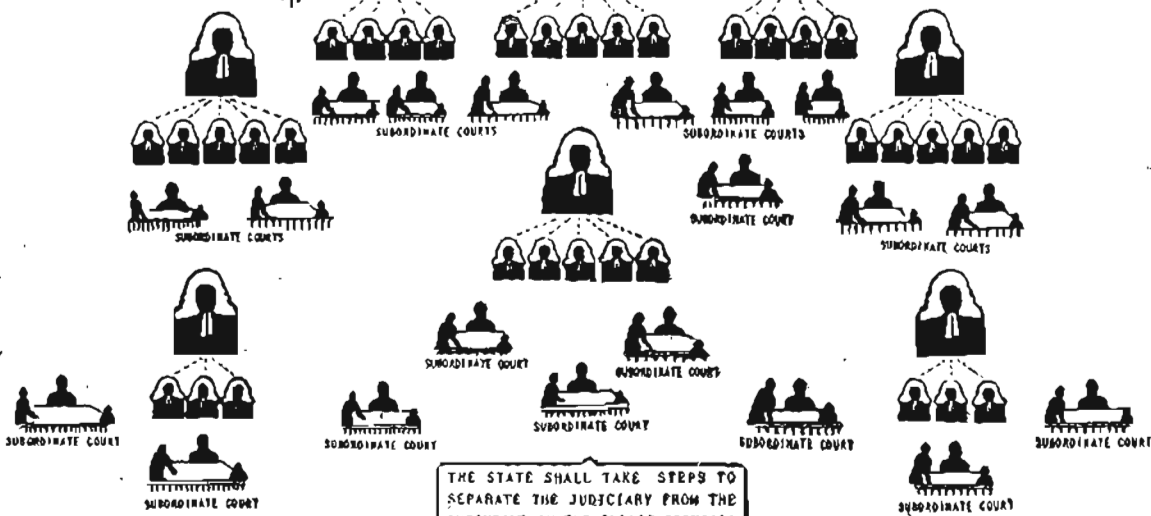
CHIEF JUSTICE

JURISDICTION:
 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES ON APPEAL FROM HIGH COURTS AND FROM TRIBUNALS
 DISPUTES BETWEEN UNION AND STATES OR STATES *INTER SE*
 QUESTIONS OF LAW AS TO INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION
 ENFORCEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
 QUESTIONS REFERRED TO BY PRESIDENT



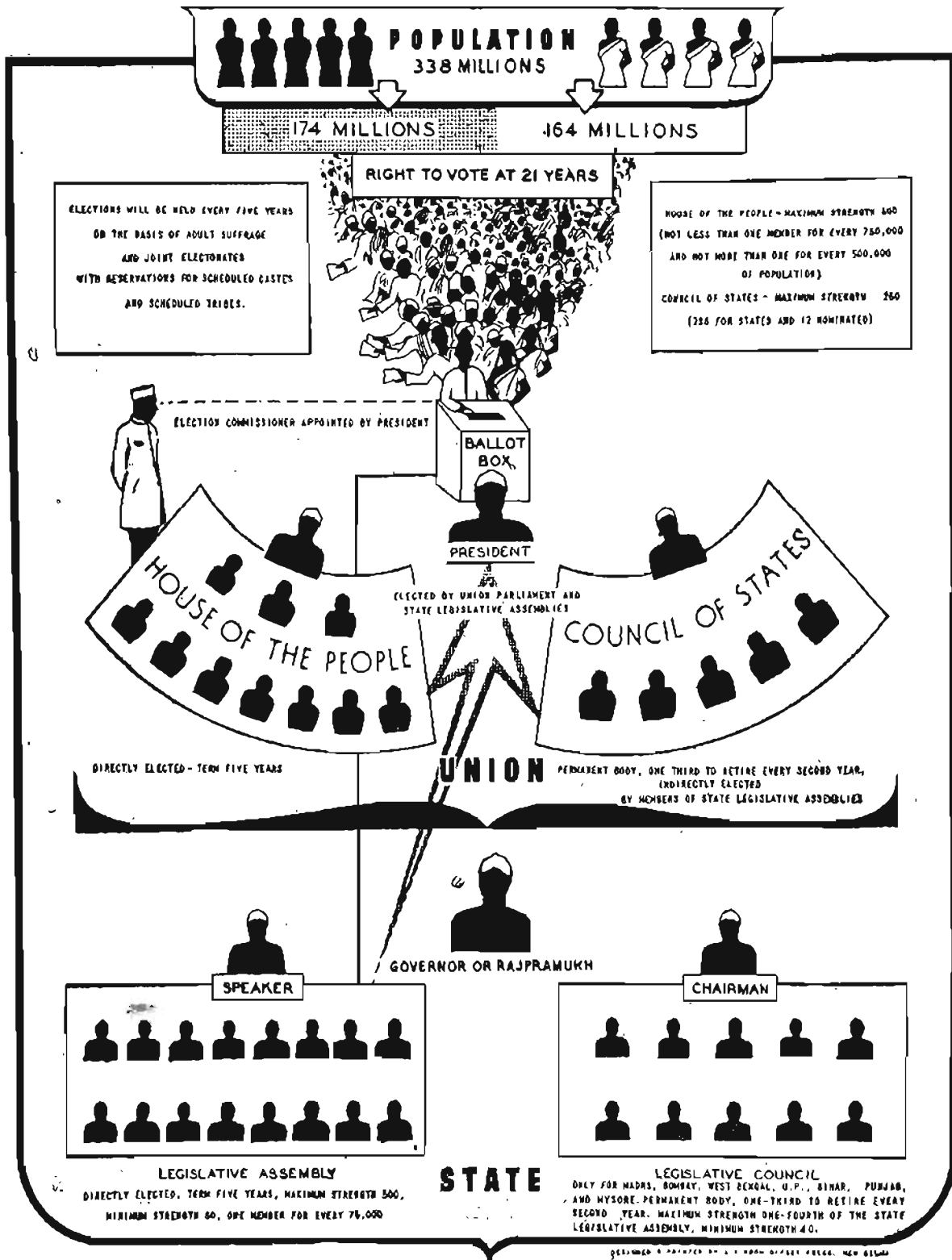
SUPREME COURT

HIGH COURTS

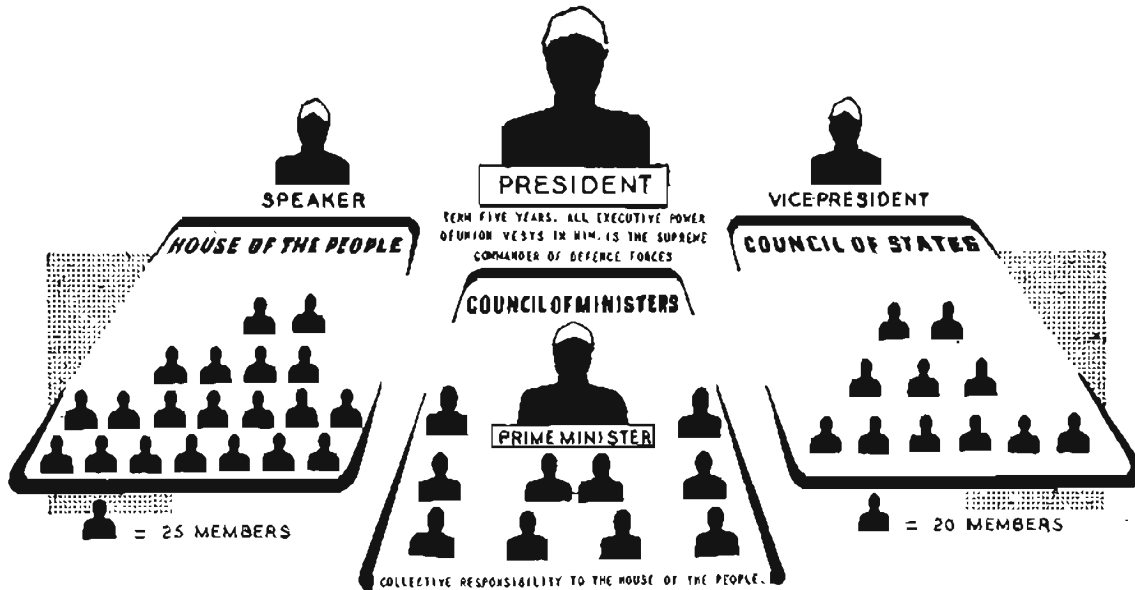


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FRANCHISE & LEGISLATURES

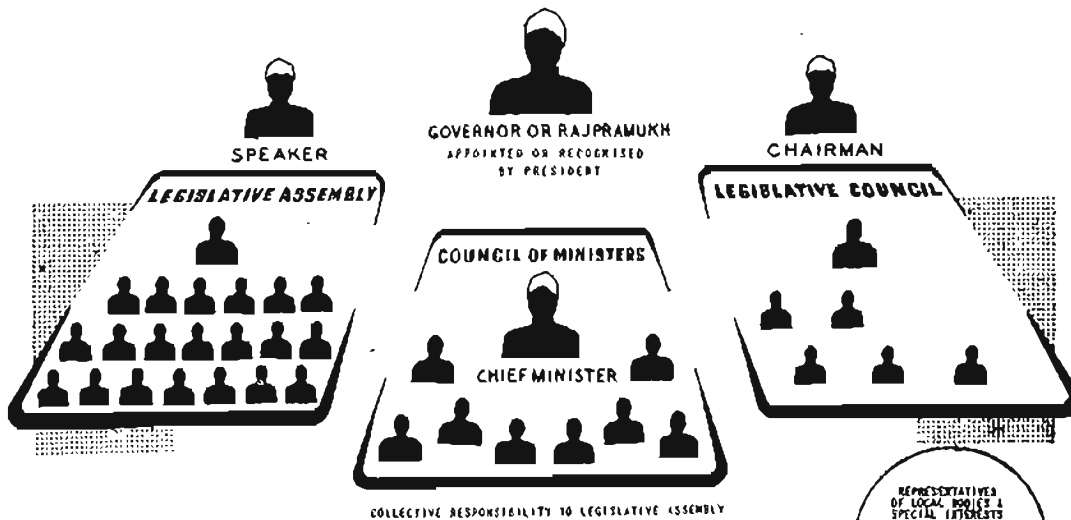


PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT

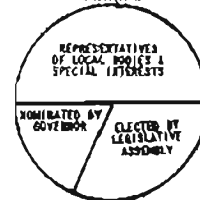


PARLIAMENT MUST MEET AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR. IT CAN ENACT LAWS ON ANY MATTER IN UNION AND CONCURRENT LISTS. IT CAN ENACT LAWS ALSO ON ANY MATTER IN STATE LIST PROVIDED IT IS IN NATIONAL INTERESTS OR DURING PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY OR WITH THE CONSENT OF STATES

UNION



STATES LEGISLATURES CAN MAKE LAWS ON ALL SUBJECTS IN THE STATE AND CONCURRENT LISTS. THEY MUST MEET AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR.



STATE