

Department of Political Science
BA (Major) 4th Semester
Paper: Public Administration-II
Topic: Meaning of Accountability (Unit IV)

Accountability is a form of liability that refers to who and for what and what is accountable, which is understood as the obligation of the holder of the trust to provide accountability, presenting and reporting all activities that are his responsibility to the party who provides the trust has the authority to hold such accountability. In governmental affairs particularly in public administration, it has special implications and the concept is regarded as an important part. It implies that the representatives elected by the people must give explanations of the electorate for all these policies and actions. This is a very important part of democracy-particularly representative form of government. This is a very common cause that a person by whom he is elected is accountable to him or them. The ministers are accountable to the legislature, and the members of the legislature are accountable to the electorate. In a simple way, when a person is entrusted with a job or duty he is supposed to do it to the best of his ability, experience, honesty and efficiency. But, if he fails to satisfy his employer, the later can claim explanation, or the later can ask him the cause of failure. This is called accountability. Hence, accountability means one is bound to give explanation for the policy or work done by someone. It is an obligation of an individual or organization to account for its activities, accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner.

The decision-makers of the government, the private sector and community organizations are accountable to the public and to the agencies concerned. The form of liability depends on the type of organization concerned. Accountability basically provides a very important role in creating a good governance activity as a part of improving public confidence in government performance. The conception of accountability can be seen that government officials are not only accountable to higher authorities in

the institutional chain of command but also accountable to the general public, non-governmental organizations, mass media and many other stakeholders.