BLOGS

Nature and Scope of Administrative Law

Ruchika Mohapatra · 22 Feb 2026

Introduction

In the last article, we discussed the need, importance and definition of administrative law. Administrative Law is that branch of the law, which is concerned, with the composition of powers, duties, rights and liabilities of the various organs of the Government.

In this article, we will discuss the nature and scope of administrative law.

Nature of Administrative Law

Branch of Public Law: Administrative law is a branch of public law that focuses on the legal principles and rules governing the activities of administrative agencies. These agencies are established by the government to administer and implement laws and policies in various areas such as taxation, healthcare, transportation, environment, and more.

Regulates Administrative Agencies: Administrative law defines the organization, powers, functions, and procedures of administrative agencies. It sets out the legal framework within which these agencies operate, ensuring that they act within their delegated authority and in accordance with the law.

Balancing Power: Administrative law seeks to strike a balance between the need for administrative efficiency and the protection of individual rights and freedoms. It aims to prevent abuse of power by administrative agencies while allowing them the necessary authority to carry out their functions effectively.

Rule-Making and Rule Application: One of the central aspects of administrative law is the process of rule-making by administrative agencies. These agencies have the authority to create rules and regulations to implement statutes and policies. Administrative law also governs the application of these rules, ensuring fair and consistent decision-making.

Dispute Resolution: Administrative law provides mechanisms for resolving disputes between individuals and administrative agencies. It typically involves administrative tribunals or specialized courts that have jurisdiction to hear and decide on administrative matters. These bodies offer an alternative to traditional courts and provide expertise in the subject matter of the disputes.

Scope of Administrative Law

Judicial Review: One of the key features of administrative law is judicial review. It allows courts to review the legality and validity of administrative actions, decisions, and regulations. Courts assess whether administrative agencies have acted within their authority, followed fair procedures, and made decisions that are reasonable and consistent with the law.

Administrative Procedures: Administrative law sets out the procedures that administrative agencies must follow when making decisions or taking actions that affect individuals. These procedures often include notice requirements, opportunities for hearings, and the right to present evidence and arguments.

Substantive Standards: Administrative law establishes substantive standards that guide administrative decision-making. These standards require agencies to consider relevant factors, weigh competing interests, and make decisions that are rational, fair, and consistent with the underlying purpose of the legislation.

Accountability and Transparency: Administrative law aims to promote accountability and transparency in the functioning of administrative agencies. It requires agencies to provide reasons for their decisions, disclose relevant information, and allow affected individuals to participate in the decision-making process.

Remedies: Administrative law provides remedies for individuals aggrieved by administrative actions. These remedies may include appeals, judicial review, and the power of courts to set aside or modify administrative decisions that are found to be unlawful or unreasonable.

Conclusion

Administrative law plays a crucial role in ensuring that administrative agencies operate within the bounds of the law, respect individual rights, and promote good governance. It balances the need

for effective administration with the principles of fairness, accountability, and the rule of law.

Click here to read the definition and importance of Administrative Law