The subject-wise distribution of legislative competence among the three legislative jurisdictions, union, state and concurrent, gives rise to a problem of legislative conflicts in India. There does not seem to have been any study exclusively devoted to this aspect of Indian federalism. This study is an attempt in that direction.

The study has been broadly divided into three parts after an historical introduction in chapter I. Chapters II to VIII deal with conflicts between the exclusive fields, chapters IX and X with conflicts in the concurrent field, and chapter XI with conflicts between the exclusive and concurrent fields. In the last chapter, i.e., chapter XII, has been collected together some conclusions which in most cases have also been noted in the course of the study.

Only the problem of conflicts on account of the vertical division of powers, as the subject-wise distribution of powers is sometimes called, has been the subject of this study. It has therefore excluded territorial conflicts and certain measures designed to prevent conflicts such as presidential assent to state bills and the role of inter-state council. The decisions of the Federal Court, the Privy Council and the Supreme Court have been mainly used for the purpose. High Court decisions have also been referred to occasionally. While all the subjects mentioned in the Seventh Schedule have not been covered, the selection of topics has been so made, it is felt, as to cover all questions of significance and the subjects left out, if included, would have merely added to the bulk of the study without shedding any light on the principles involved.

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