The Australian Capital Territory, lying approximately 320 km south-west of Sydney, belonged to the State of New South Wales. On 19 December 1909, the area was surrendered by New South Wales to the Commonwealth for purposes of the seat of the Government. The territory covering an area of 2,359 sq. km was accepted by the Commonwealth in 1910. Subsequently, 73 sq. km at Jervis Bay was further transferred to the Commonwealth to serve as a port of the territory.

The administration of the territory is carried on under the seat of Government (Administration) Act. The executive power is vested in the Governor-General, who is entitled to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the territory. At the territorial level, the legislative Assembly consisting of 18 members (of whom half are elected and half are nominated) has been constituted to advise the Minister for the Capital Territory in relation to any matter affecting the Territory including the making of

1 See the Seat of Government Surrender Act (14 of 1909) 1909, Sec. 6
2 See the Seat of Government Acceptance Act (23 of 1909) 1909, Sec. 5
3 See the Jervis Bay Acceptance Act (19 of 1915) 1915
4 See the Seat of Government (Administration) Act (2 of 1910) 1910 as modified till date, Sec. 12
The role of the Assembly, however, is an advisory one. The territory is represented in each house of Parliament by two members who have full voting rights.

The Ashmore and Cartier Islands

The Ashmore and Cartier Islands, which recently have been made an integral territory of the Australian Commonwealth, are situated in the Indian Ocean off the north-west coast of Australia. The early history of the Islands was that Great Britain took the formal possession of the Ashmore in 1873 and Cartier was annexed in 1909. By the Imperial Order of 23 July 1931, the Islands were placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia. They were accepted by the Commonwealth in 1933, under the name of the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands. The Act authorized the Governor of Western Australia to make ordinances having the force of law in, and in relation to, the territory. In 1938, the Islands ceased to be a separate territory. They were attached to the Northern Territory, whose laws, ordinances and regulations, wherever applicable, were enforced.

5 See Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia (1977-78), No. 62, p. 721
6 Ibid.
7 See Australian Capital Territory Representation (House of Representatives) Act (60 of 1933) 1933, Sec. 5; and Senate (Representation of Territories) Act (39 of 1974) 1974, Sec. 4
8 See the Ashmore and Cartier Islands Acceptance Act (60 of 1933) 1933, Sec. 5
9 Ibid., Sec. 8
10 See the Ashmore and Cartier Islands Acceptance (Amendment) Act (11 of 1938) 1938, Sec. 2
1978, while enacting the Self-Government Act for the Northern Territory, the Ashmore and Cartier Islands were detached from the Northern Territory and made an internal (Mainland) territory of the Commonwealth of Australia.\textsuperscript{11}

As regards the administration, the Governor-General is empowered to make ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory.\textsuperscript{12} The laws made by the Northern Territory's Legislative Assembly before 1 July 1978 would remain in force so long as they are not repealed or amended.\textsuperscript{13} The courts of the Northern Territory would also have jurisdiction over the Islands.\textsuperscript{14}

\textbf{The Northern Territory}

The Northern Territory of Australia is bordered on the east by Queensland; on the south by the State of South Australia and on the north by Timor Sea, Arafura Sea and Gulf of Carpentaria. The Territory is at present governed under the Act of 1978. The Legislative power besides Parliament is vested in a nineteen-members fully elected Legislative Assembly.\textsuperscript{15} The Legislative Assembly has been empowered to make laws on any matter which is within the competence of

\textsuperscript{11} See the Ashmore and Cartier Islands Acceptance (Amendment) Act (59 of 1978) 1978, Sec. 4

\textsuperscript{12} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{13} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{14} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{15} See Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act (58 of 1978) 1978, Secs. 6 and 58
The executive power of the territory is exercised by the Administrator. In the exercise of this power, he is advised by an executive council. The judicial power is exercised by the Supreme Court. The territory is represented in the House of Representatives of Commonwealth by one member and by two members in the Senate who have full voting rights.

16 The matters over which the ministers of territory would have executive authority have been specified by the Governor-General in the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Regulations (N.R. 102 of 1978) 1978, Sec. 4; and Northern Territory (Self-Government Amendment) Regulations (158 of 1978) 1978

17 See Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act, 1978, Sec. 32

18 Ibid., Sec. 33

19 See Northern Territory Representation Act (18 of 1922) 1922 with subsequent amendments, Sec. 3; and Senate (Representation of Territories) Act (39 of 1974) 1974, Sec. 4