

Tender Heart High School

29.7.24

Class: X Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

Subject: History and Civics

Ms. Rameet

The Prime Minister

India has a parliamentary form of Government where the President is nominal head of the state and the Prime Minister is the real Head of the Government.

The Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister play the most important role in the Indian Government.

Appointment:-

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President. The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party in the Lok Sabha. He is elected by the party and the President has to invite him to form the Government.

The President can use his discretionary power when no party or leader gets the majority support in the Lok Sabha.

Council of Ministers:-

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and the other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. Only the members of Parliament are appointed as Ministers. In case a non-member is appointed as a Minister he must become the member of Parliament within six months otherwise he will have to resign from the office.

The Council of Ministers are divided into three different categories.

(1) Cabinet Ministers:-

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To the first category belong the Cabinet Ministers, who hold major portfolios, like Home, Defence, Finance, External Affairs, Railways, etc. Only Cabinet Ministers have a right to attend meetings of the Cabinet. They make the policy and programme of the Government.

2. Ministers of State:-

They are the second category of Ministers. They may or may not have an independent portfolio. The Prime Minister consult them whenever required. They do not take part in the Cabinet meetings.

3. Deputy Ministers:-

They are junior ministers and are placed under senior ministers whom they are to assist. They take no part in the Cabinet meetings.

The Cabinet:-

Formation:-

The Cabinet consist of senior leaders of the party who are included in the Council of Ministers.

They hold important departments. They make the policies and programmes of the Government.

Appointment of the Cabinet:-

The Prime Minister selects the Cabinet Ministers and gives the list to the President who appoints them.

Term of office:-

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The ministers shall hold office as long as the President wishes. However they cannot be removed from office as long as they have the support of the Lok Sabha. If the prime minister does not have the majority support of the Lok Sabha he has to resign from the office.

The resignation of the Prime Minister means the resignation of the entire council of Ministers. The salaries and allowances of Ministers are fixed by the Parliament of India.

Distinction between Council of Ministers and the Cabinet:-

Council of Ministers:-

Cabinet:-

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| (1) The Council of Ministers consist of Cabinet ministers, ministers of State and deputy ministers. | (1) The Cabinet consists of few important senior ministers who are in charge of important departments. |
| (2) The Council of Ministers as a whole meets very rarely. | (2) The Cabinet meets regularly to make the policies and programmes of the Government. |
| (3) The Prime Minister may not consult ^{all} the council of Ministers while taking a decision. | (3) The Cabinet is consulted by the Prime Minister on every important matter. |
| (4) All the Council of Ministers do not give advice to the President. | (4) The Cabinet advises the President through the Prime Minister. |