

Class: X Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

Subject: History and Civics

Ms. Rameet

Position and Powers of the Prime Minister:-

Prime Minister's relations with the President.

1. All the authority given to the President is performed by the Prime Minister. The President is the nominal head and the Prime Minister is the real executive of Indian Union.
2. Prime Minister is the link between the Cabinet and the President. The decisions of the Cabinet are conveyed to the President through the Prime Minister. It is he who keeps the President informed on all matters of government.
3. The Prime Minister advises the President to summon and prorogue the Parliament and to dissolve the Lok Sabha.
4. The Prime Minister advises the President on the appointment of Judges of Supreme Court, the Governors and Ambassadors and also in appointing or removing other high officials.
5. The President cannot dismiss the Prime Minister as long as he enjoys the support of the majority in the Parliament.
6. The President can ask for information regarding the work of the Union and the Prime Minister has to give the information.

Prime Minister and the Cabinet:-

1. Leader of the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet. He helps in making all appointments.

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2. Power to Allocate Portfolios and to Reshuffle the Council of Ministers:-

The Prime Minister gives departments or portfolios to various Ministers. He can reshuffle the Council of Ministers whenever required.

3. Power to Select and Dismiss Ministers:-

The Prime Minister selects the Ministers and can even dismiss them if required. He can ask a Minister to resign if he is not working properly.

4. Power to Direct and Coordinate Policy:-

The Prime Minister coordinates the policies and programmes of various departments to ensure that all departments work properly.

5. Resignation of the Prime Minister:-

If the Prime Minister resigns the entire Cabinet has to resign. He is a link between the Cabinet and the President.

Prime Minister inside the Parliament:-

1. Leader of the Lok Sabha.

The Prime Minister is the leader of the Lok Sabha. He is elected by the majority vote of the people.

2. Spokesperson of the Government:-

The Prime Minister is the "principal spokesman" and defender of the Government in Parliament. It is he who makes all important announcements of

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national policies on the floor of the House.

3. Intervention in case of Controversial Issues:-

There are some sensitive issues like the language issue, centre-State relations, price-rise and exploitation of women etc. If an ugly situation arises the matter is solved by the Prime Minister.

4. Sometimes Minister's work comes under severe attack in the House. It is the Prime Minister who saves them from an unpleasant situation.

Prime Minister as Leader of the Nation:-

1. The Prime Minister represents the nation. The nation speaks through the Prime Minister.

2. During any crisis even the opposition supports the Prime Minister.

3. The Prime Minister decides India's relations with other nations.

4. The Prime Minister protects the country in international conferences.

5. At the time of General Election, people vote to elect the Prime Minister.

6. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairman of the Niti Aayog and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Check on the Authority of the Prime Minister.

1. The Party to which the Prime Minister belongs, his own colleagues, the judiciary, the Parliament of India

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all keep a check on the Prime Minister.

2. Opposition parties also keep a check on the Prime Minister.

3. The Press and media also keeps a check on the authority of the Prime Minister.

Collective Responsibility:-

Collective Responsibility means that the Ministers remain in office till they enjoy the support of the majority of members in the Lok Sabha. All ministers work as a team. They sink and swim together. If a vote of no-confidence is passed against the Government or even a single minister then the whole team has to resign.

The principle of Collective responsibility means:-

1. The decision taken by the cabinet should be followed by all the ministers.
2. All the Ministers share the same responsibility for the government's policies and programmes. They all work as a team.
3. If a Vote of No-Confidence is passed against one Minister the whole Ministry has to resign.

Individual Responsibility:-

Individual Responsibility means that each minister is responsible for his work done. The Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President and may be removed by him, if they are not working properly. Each Minister is answerable for his work done.

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Each Minister is responsible for

- (i) his personal lapse or failures.
- (ii) Not doing official policy properly by him or by his department.
- (iii) breach of oath of secrecy or not keeping the secrets.

Home Work:-

Q1. With reference to the Prime Minister of India, answer the following questions:-

- (a) What is meant by the term 'Cabinet'? Who comprises the Cabinet?
- (b) State three points of difference between the Cabinet and the Council of Ministers.
- (c) Distinguish between individual responsibility and collective responsibility.
- (d) state any three powers of the Prime Minister as a chairperson of the Cabinet?

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