

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Union Executive of India

The Union Executive

Our Constitution provides for a plan of democratic government. The Government at the centre is called Union Government. The Union Executive includes the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister & the Council of Ministers.

The two Houses of Parliament are known as the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha consists of not more than 543 elected members. The number of representatives of each State depends upon the population of the State. The President may nominate TWO members of Anglo Indian Community.

Term of Lok Sabha

The members of Loksabha are elected for a five year term. The term can be extended by the president during emergency for six months after this he can dissolve it with Prime minister's recommendation.

The Speaker

The members elect the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from among themselves. The Speaker presides over its sessions and conducts its business. The Speaker is

normally a member of the majority party after the elections he resigns from the party.

The Deputy Speaker

In Speaker's absence the deputy speaker acts as the presiding officer. The Deputy Speaker is generally a member of the Opposition party.

The Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha is a Permanent body. The members of Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly. Membership is limited to 250 members. Twelve members are nominated by the President of India for their contributions to art, literature, science, and social services.

The President

The President is the constitutional head of the country. He or she is elected by the electoral college which consists of the members of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State. The term of the President is 5 years. The Constitution of India grants him or her many executive, legislative, judicial, financial and emergency powers.

The Vice-President

The vice-president functions as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha and conducts the proceedings of the House.

The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister plays an important role in formulating the policies of the country. He or she then announces these policies in the Parliament. The Prime Minister heads

the Council of Ministers. The real executive manages the administration on behalf of the President.

The Council of Ministers

There are three types of ministers in the council :

- The Cabinet Ministers
- The State Ministers and
- The Deputy ministers.

The Cabinet Ministers hold important departments and frame the national policies under the leadership of the prime minister.

The State Ministers help the Cabinet Ministers in their functions.

The Deputy ministers assist the ministers of Cabinet and State.

Political And Permanent Executive - Powers Of Prime Minister And His Council Of Ministers And The President

A group of functionaries is called the executive. The executive has two categories: political and permanent. The political executive consists of political leaders who are elected by the people for a specific term.

The permanent executive includes members who are appointed on a long-term basis. The permanent executive is also called the civil services. The political

executive has more powers and the final say in all important decisions as they are the representatives of the people.

The political executive includes the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

The President appoints the leader of the majority, or the coalition party that has a majority in the Lok Sabha, as the Prime Minister.

The remaining ministers are appointed by the President based on the Prime Minister's advice. These ministers are usually from the party or the coalition that has a majority in the Lok Sabha. The group of ministers is called the Council of Ministers. It includes about 70 members of different ranks.

The Council of Ministers includes Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State with

independent charge, and Ministers of State.

A Union Cabinet Minister is a senior minister, from the ruling party, in charge of a ministry. A cabinet minister may also hold additional charges of other ministries, where no other cabinet minister is appointed. The cabinet is the internal ring of the council of ministers. It consists of around 20 members.

A Minister of State is a junior minister with an overseeing cabinet minister, usually having specific responsibility in that ministry. Most important decisions are made in cabinet meetings. Due to this reason, parliamentary democracy is also known as the cabinet form of government.

The Prime Minister has several powers as the head of the government. He chairs cabinet meetings, and assigns work to the

other ministers. He also has the power to dismiss ministers. If the Prime Minister resigns, the entire ministry is supposed to have resigned.

The Prime Minister is the most powerful member in the cabinet. The power of the prime ministers has increased so much that parliamentary democracies are sometimes called the Prime Ministerial form of government.

The President is the head of the state, and has nominal powers. The President supervises the overall functioning of all political institutions in the country to achieve the objectives of the state.

The President is not directly elected by the people. All the members of parliament (MPs) and the members of the state legislative assemblies elect the President.

All major government activities, policy decisions and laws are issued in the name of the President. The President takes all major decisions based on the advice of the council of ministers.

One major decision that the President makes on his or her own is to appoint the Prime Minister. The President appoints the leader of the majority party or coalition that enjoys a majority support in the Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister.