



## ROLE OF CABINET COMMITTEES IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

*Cabinet plays a key role in the decision making process of the country at the centre or in the states. It mainly consists of the senior and experienced political leaders of the executive branch. They will be allotted key departments in the government. Several ministers work under them and help them to discharge their duties effectively. For the convenience of the administration they form several cabinet committees from time to time and focus on fulfilling the assigned task to the committees. It advises the Head of the State to take decisions on the key issues crucial for the country. Apart from that they play an important role in the formulation of the legislation before it is passes by the Parliament.*



**KEY WORDS :** *Standing Committees, Legislation, Parliament, Administration, Executive, Government, Ministries, Departments.*

### INTRODUCTION

The functioning of the entire governmental activity is a complex issue. The Head of the State cannot attend to each and every activity. The cabinet and the ministers take charge of various ministries in the Government of India. These cabinet members take the responsibility of the official duties performed by them. The procedure of establishing the cabinet committees is to make sure that the functioning of the government is efficient, effective and economical for smooth operation of the government from grassroot level to the top level.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. To study the functions of the Cabinet Committees in India.
2. To study the types of Cabinet Committees in India.
3. To explore the role and the criticism of Cabinet Committees in India.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE CABINET COMMITTEES

The cabinet committees play a role of reducing the burden of work that is mounting on the limited members of the cabinet. These cabinet committees act as a device for facilitating an increased output of the government. It provides an ample opportunity for the cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister to focus on more important activities that are vital for the development of the nation as a whole. The cabinet committees try to provide the required data for the cabinet ministers on many activities. They stand at the forefront in protecting the principle of individual responsibility and collective responsibility of the government. It helps the political executive to effectively control the bureaucracy. These cabinet committees

play a significant role in achieving coordination between the cabinet ministers, ministers of the cabinet rank, ministers of the state and so on.

### **KINDS OF CABINET COMMITTEES**

There are two types of cabinet committees they are:

1. Standing Committees
2. Adhoc Committees

The standing committees are permanent and the Adhoc committees are non-permanent in nature and they are discontinued after their task is over. The standing committees are set up by the Prime Minister of India. They are mainly based on the principle of delegation and division of labour. Their membership varies from time to time and usually compose of cabinet members. They clear the issues before them and even formulate principles. There are thirteen cabinet committees as of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### **The Cabinet Committees are:**

1. CCEA ( Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs)
2. CCP (Cabinet Committee on Prices)
3. CCPA ( Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs)
4. ACC (Appointment Committee of the Cabinet).
5. WTO Matters ( Cabinet Committee on World Trade Organization)
6. CCI (Cabinet Committee on Investment)
7. CCPA (Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs)
8. CCA (Cabinet Committee on Accommodation)
9. CCS ( Cabinet Committee on Security) etc.

### **Role of the Cabinet Committees**

The cabinet committees play a key role in the government. The cabinet committee takes all the major decisions on the issues related to the committee. They play a key role in the development of the country. They facilitate the coordination of the staff of the political executive over the bureaucracy. They act like an effective device for increasing the output. It reduces the pressure on cabinet. They act as a collective check on the Prime Minister and the individual ministers.

### **Criticism of the Cabinet Committees**

The cabinet committees face certain criticisms:

1. Administrative Reforms Commission identified that the Cabinet Committees are not meeting regularly.
2. They are filled with cabinet ministers but they need to concentrate on other important issues.
3. There is wide variation of strength of various standing committees.
4. It is often criticized for low effective and quick decision and action on key and urgent issues.

### **CONCLUSION**

The role of Cabinet Ministers in India is very important for the development of the country in a holistic way. They are usually busy with heavy daily schedule. They are more concerned for the development of their own political party. The Cabinet Ministers are allocated various departments in the government. They make key decisions and participate in many meetings with the Prime Minister and key functionaries in the government. All the Defence issues are dealt by them. The policy matters concerning foreign affairs are dealt by the Cabinet Committees. They often revise the human resource requirement with respect to national security.

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