



CHAPTER 4

Prime Minister and Council of Ministers

Syllabus

(a) **Prime Minister and Council of Ministers:** Appointment, formation of Council of Ministers, tenure, functions - policy making, administrative, legislative, financial, emergency. Position and powers of the Prime Minister. Collective and individual responsibility of the members of the Cabinet. Distinction between the Council of Ministers and the Cabinet.

THE PRIME MINISTER

The Constitution of India provides for a Council of Ministers, with the Prime Minister at the head, to aid and advise the President. The President acts in accordance with their advice, in the exercise of his/her functions. The President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider their advice, but he/she shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.

Ours is a Parliamentary Form of Government; therefore, our President is only a nominal Head of the State. Thus, the Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, is the most powerful institution in the Indian polity.

Appointment

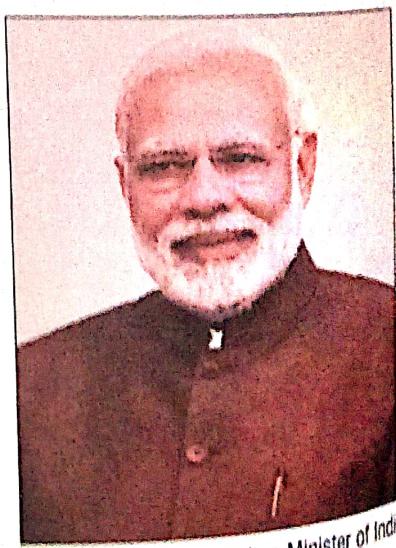
The Prime Minister is appointed by the President. The President cannot act arbitrarily in this appointment. According to convention, the President invites the leader of the majority party or group in the Lok Sabha to form the Government. The members of the majority party or the group elect their leader to be appointed as the Prime Minister. The President then appoints him/her as the Prime Minister. When no single

political party secures an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha, the President may have some option in the appointment of the Prime Minister. But, the President has to appoint that person who can prove that he/she has the support of some smaller groups or parties in order to have majority in the House.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Article 75 of the Constitution states that the Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. By convention, the President has to accept the choice of the Prime Minister in the matter of appointment and dismissal of Ministers.

Normally, only the members of Parliament are appointed as Ministers. In case a non-member is appointed as a Minister, he must be elected or nominated to the Parliament within six months from the date of his appointment.



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

appointment. Failing this, he/she will have to resign from the post of a Minister.

Before 1979, the Constitution did not refer to the word 'Cabinet'; it referred only to the Council of Ministers. The 44th Amendment Act provides that the President shall not issue a Proclamation of National Emergency unless the decision of the Union Cabinet (i.e., the Prime Minister and other Ministers of Cabinet rank) has been communicated to him/her in writing. After this, the distinction between the Cabinet and the Council of Ministers has become evident.

1. Cabinet Ministers: They are the most important members of the Council of Ministers. They hold important portfolios, like Home, Defence, Finance, External Affairs, Railways, etc. A Cabinet Minister is in charge of a Ministry and sometimes of more than one Ministry. Only Cabinet Ministers have a right to attend meetings of the Cabinet. They together determine the policy and programme of the Government.

2. Ministers of State: They are the second category of Ministers. They may or may not hold an independent charge of any portfolio. The Prime Minister may or may not consult them. They do not participate in the Cabinet meetings. But they may be invited to attend meetings when matters concerning their departments are being considered.

3. Deputy Ministers: They are the third category of Ministers who assist the Cabinet

Ministers and the Council of Ministers. They are junior ministers and are placed under senior ministers whom they have to assist. They take no part in Cabinet deliberations.

The Council of Ministers comprise the Prime Minister and a number of other ministers appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Constitution of India does not specify either the number of members of the Council of Ministers or classify the members of the Council into different ranks. However, the Constitution (91st amendment) Act, 2003, has put a ceiling on the size of the Council of Ministers at the Centre and in the States to 15 per cent of the strength of the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures. In the case of smaller States, the maximum number of ministers allowed is 12. This step was taken to check defections from one party to another and also to curb the government expenditure on account of jumbo size ministries.

The Cabinet

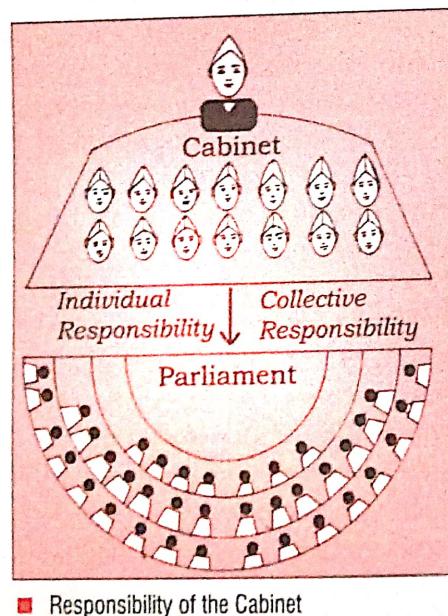
Formation: The Cabinet is composed of a small but important body of senior leaders of the party, who are included in the Council of Ministers. They hold important portfolios and decide major policies of the Government. They, being trusted colleagues of the Prime Minister, form the nucleus of the administration. In fact, the Cabinet is the pivot round which the whole administration revolves.

The Cabinet takes important decisions. Such decisions are communicated to the other Ministers and they have to follow these decisions even though they might not have been a party to such decisions.

Appointment of the Cabinet: The Prime Minister selects his/her senior and trustworthy colleagues and advises the President to appoint them as Cabinet Ministers. The President then appoints them as Ministers as per the advice of the Prime Minister.

Term of Office

1. The ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President. But the President has little power even in this regard because, the Prime Minister and the Council of



Ministers are directly responsible to the Lok Sabha and can remain in office so long as they enjoy the majority support in the House of the People (Lok Sabha). If the Lok Sabha passes a vote of No-Confidence against the Council of Ministers they have to resign collectively.

2. The Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
3. Before a Minister enters upon his/her office, the President administers him the Oath of Office and of Secrecy.

In the Oath of Office the Minister swears to:

- (a) bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India;
- (b) uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India,
- (c) faithfully and conscientiously discharge his/her duties without fear or favour, action or ill-will.

In the Oath of Secrecy, the Minister swears not to directly or indirectly communicate or reveal to any one, any matter which is brought for consideration except as may be required for the discharge of his duties.

4. Every minister must be a member of either House of the Parliament or must become one within six months of his/her appointment, failing which he/she will have to vacate his/her office.
5. The salaries and allowances of Ministers are such as Parliament from time to time by law determines.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CABINET

Administrative Powers

1. Policy Making: The Cabinet formulates both external and domestic policies of the Government. It takes decisions on matters such as defence, economic policy, security needs, President's rule in State, formation of new States, industrial policy, imports and electoral reforms. Individual Ministers have reasonable freedom of action, but on all major matters they have to consult the Cabinet.

FEATURES OF THE CABINET SYSTEM

The Cabinet is the apex body consisting of ministers of Cabinet rank and headed by the Prime Minister. The main features of the Cabinet System are:

1. President as Nominal Head: The President is the Constitutional Head of State with the executive power in the hands of the Cabinet. The Cabinet, in the name of the President, formulates policies of the Government, directs their implementation and is accountable for them.

2. Coordination between Ministers and Parliament: The Ministers act as both legislators and administrators. As legislators, they attend the meetings of Parliament and take active part in its debates and discussions. As administrators, they hold different executive portfolios and carry on administration of the Union Government.

The Ministers are Members of Parliament and enjoy the support of their Party, which holds the majority in the Lok Sabha. Bills moved by the Ministers are normally bound to have the support of the MPs of the ruling Party and are passed in Parliament without difficulty. Thus, there is a close coordination between the Executive and the Legislature.

3. Leadership of the Prime Minister: The Prime Minister heads the Cabinet. He/She determines its composition, because on his/her advice the President appoints the Cabinet. He/She acts as the link between the Cabinet and the President. He/She decides the agenda of Cabinet meetings and presides over them.

4. Control of Parliament over the Executive: Parliament ensures Cabinet's responsibility to the people, in general, and to the Parliament as a whole. The methods adopted by the Parliament are:

- (a) A vote of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers.
- (b) Rejection of a Government bill.
- (c) Passing a bill opposed by the Government.
- (d) Voting a cut in the Budget.
- (e) Passing an amendment to a bill against the wishes of the Government.
- (f) Reducing the salaries of the Ministers.
- (g) Asking questions.
- (h) Adjournment motions.
- (i) Rejecting some government measures.

Distinction between Council of Ministers and the Cabinet

Council of Ministers	Cabinet
1. The Council of Ministers consists of all categories of Ministers – Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers.	1. The 'Cabinet' is a smaller group consisting of senior Ministers holding important portfolios such as Defence, Finance, Home, etc.
2. The Prime Minister may or may not consult the other Ministers, below the rank of Cabinet Ministers.	2. They are the most trusted colleagues of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister always consults them. The decisions of the Cabinet are binding on all the ministers.
3. In the day-to-day working of the government, the Council of Ministers as a whole rarely meets.	3. The Cabinet is a small cohesive group of senior Ministers who determine the policy and programme of the Government; so they meet as frequently as possible.
4. According to the Constitution, the President acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers. In reality, it is not the Council of Ministers but the Cabinet which advises the President.	4. In day-to-day governance of the country, the Cabinet advises the President, through the Prime Minister.

2. Implementation of Policies: Once a policy decision is taken by the Cabinet on any subject, it is conveyed to the Minister of State and the Deputy Minister of the concerned Ministry. They work out the details and pass it to the civil servants under that Ministry to implement the decision. In this way, the business of the Government is managed jointly by the Council of Ministers and the civil servants concerned.

3. Coordinating the Functioning of Various Ministers: The Cabinet coordinates the working of various departments for the smooth implementation of government policies. Any government policy, be it eradicating unemployment, improving public health services or increase in government revenue, requires involvement of several departments for its formulation and implementation.

4. Appointments: All major appointments, though made by the President, are decided upon by the Cabinet. Such appointments refer to the appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts, Governors of State, Chief Election Commissioner and other dignitaries.

The Cabinet chooses our ambassadors to other nations.

Legislative Powers

1. Introduction of Bills: The Cabinet and the departments of administration take initiative in legislation. In fact, the Cabinet initiates almost 95 per cent of the Bills. The legislative proposals that the Cabinet formulates are called Official Bills. These Bills are given priority and preference over Private Bills. Formulation of these Bills involves not only preparing the draft of the proposals but also presenting them before the Parliament for approval. The Cabinet explains the merits of the Bill.

It is the Cabinet who pilots the Bill through various processes of legislation from introduction to the final passage of the Bill. The Parliament only discusses, scrutinises and by putting its seal of approval, legitimises the legislative proposals formulated by the Cabinet.

2. Source of Information: The ministers along with the secretaries of the concerned departments answer questions put to them by the members of the Lok Sabha and thus provide information to the public through their representatives.

3. Amendment to the Constitution: The Cabinet is instrumental in planning and moving the Amendment to the Constitution.

4. Summoning the Houses of Parliament:

Although the Houses are summoned by the President, initiative in this matter is taken by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

5. President's Special Address: The Cabinet prepares the President's Special Address to the Parliament. The Cabinet, thus, sets forth its legislative programme at the commencement of the first session of Lok Sabha after each General Election and at the commencement of the first session of Parliament each year.

6. Issuing Ordinances: Cabinet also advises the President to issue ordinances when the Parliament is not in session.

Financial Powers

1. Budget: The Finance Minister prepares the Annual Budget containing estimates of income and expenditure for the ensuing year. Though the budget is passed by Parliament, usually no changes are made in the budget figures against the wishes of the Cabinet. Any amendment to the budget proposals against the wishes of the Cabinet that may be passed by the Lok Sabha amounts to a vote of No-Confidence in the Ministry. It happens only when the Ministry has lost the support of the majority in the Lok Sabha. In such a situation the Ministry must resign.

2. Finances of the Government: The Cabinet is responsible for the expenditure of the government, for presenting the demand for grants and also for raising necessary income by various means including taxation.

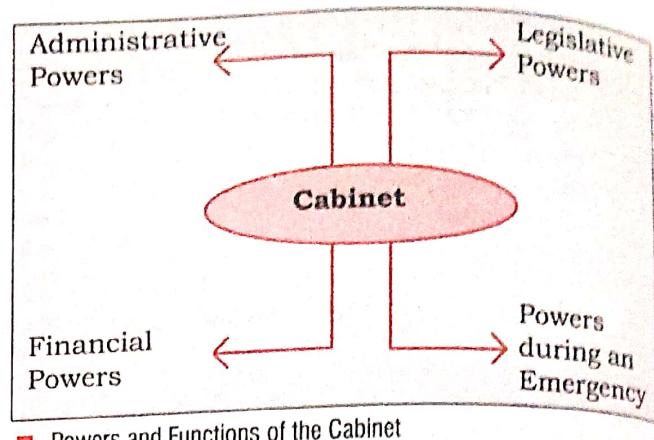
3. Introduction of Money Bills: A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha.

Emergency Powers

The President cannot declare a Proclamation of General Emergency under Article 352 of the Constitution, without receiving in writing the decision of the Cabinet to this effect. Similarly, the questions of Proclamation of Financial Emergency and of President's rule in a State are also decided by the Cabinet.

POSITION AND POWERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER

While the President is the nominal head of State, with the backing of a majority in the Lok



■ Powers and Functions of the Cabinet

Sabha, the Prime Minister is the real head of the nation. But in a parliamentary democracy his/her deeds are closely judged not only by the Opposition but also by the members of his/her own party. If he/she tries to assume dictatorial tendencies, he/she cannot escape the loss of confidence of the Parliament during his/her tenure as well as that of the electorate in the following general elections. Thus, he/she is the head of the Government and answerable to the people of the country.

Prime Minister and the President

1. All authority vested in the President is exercised by the Prime Minister. He/She is the principal advisor of the President. Thus, the President is the nominal head and the Prime Minister is the real executive of the Indian Union.
2. It is on the advice of the Prime Minister that the President summons and prorogues the Parliament and dissolves the Lok Sabha.
3. The Prime Minister chooses the ministers and, on his/her advice, the President appoints them. The ministers may be dismissed on the advice of the Prime Minister.
4. He/She advises the President on various appointments to important posts such as the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Governors and Ambassadors.
5. He/She is a link between the President and the Council of Ministers. Our Constitution lays down that it shall be the duty of the Prime Minister to communicate to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the Union and the proposals for

legislation. A Minister cannot discuss any matter of national policy with the President on his/her own.

6. The President can ask the Council of Ministers to reconsider any matter, which has not been considered by the Cabinet and on which a decision has been taken by a Minister. The President may call for information regarding the affairs of the Union and the Prime Minister has to furnish such information.

Prime Minister and the Cabinet

1. Leader of the Cabinet: The Prime Minister is the head of the Cabinet. No provision is made in the Constitution for the appointment of different categories of Ministers such as Ministers of the Cabinet rank, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers. The Prime Minister has the liberty to decide on these matters.

2. Power to Allocate Portfolios and to Reshuffle the Council of Ministers: It is the Prime Minister who allocates departments or portfolios to the Ministers. He/She can reshuffle his/her Council of Ministers whenever he/she pleases.

3. Power to Select and Dismiss Ministers: The Prime Minister chooses the Ministers and has the power to dismiss them too. He/She can ask an erring Minister to resign.

4. Power to Direct and Coordinate Policy: The Prime Minister coordinates the working of various departments so that administration is carried on smoothly. In critical matters such as, foreign, defence, economic and technological affairs, he/she coordinates the policy of the Government.

5. Resignation of the Prime Minister: The Prime Minister's resignation implies the resignation of the whole Cabinet.

Prime Minister inside the Parliament

1. Leader of the Lok Sabha: As the Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party in Parliament, he/she is said to be the leader of the House.

2. Spokesperson of the Government: The Prime Minister is the chief spokesman of the

Government in the Parliament. He/She makes all important announcements on national policies on the floor of the House.

3. Defender of Government Policies: The Prime Minister defends the Government in the Parliament. When a policy or a Minister comes under attack in the Parliament, the Prime Minister comes to defend the issue involved.

4. Intervention in case of Controversial Issues: There are some controversial issues like the language issue, Centre-State relations, price-rise and atrocities on women over which members lose their temper. If an ugly situation arises in any of the Houses, the matter generally ends with the intervention of the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister as Leader of the Nation

1. The Prime Minister represents the nation. When he/she speaks, the whole nation is supposed to be speaking through him/her.
2. During a national crisis like war, even the opposition parties support the Prime Minister.
3. The Prime Minister decides what kind of relations India would have with other countries.
4. The Prime Minister tries to protect the interests of the country in international forums. He/She discusses matters of mutual interest with other leaders, keeping the interests of India in mind.
5. At the time of General Election, it is the proposed Prime Minister for whom or against whom the people vote.
6. The Prime Minister is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Niti Aayog and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Check on the authority of the Prime Minister

1. Though the Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party, he/she has to ensure the support of his ministers as well as the party.
2. In case of coalitions, when the Prime Minister does not enjoy an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha, his/her position becomes more vulnerable.

3. Opposition parties always look for a chance to criticise the Prime Minister.
4. The press and public opinion act as effective checks on Prime Minister's authority.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Under Article 75(3) of the Constitution "the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People."

The principle of collective responsibility implies the following:

- (i) The decisions taken in the meetings of the Cabinet are equally applicable to all the Ministers even though they may differ among themselves on a particular policy.
- (ii) All Ministers jointly share the responsibility for the government's policies and performance. The Ministers must function as a team in supporting and defending government policies inside as well as outside Parliament.
- (iii) A Vote of No-Confidence against one

Minister is a vote against the whole Ministry. Such a Ministry that has lost the confidence of the Lok Sabha has to resign.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Ministers are individually responsible to the President, i.e., they hold office during the pleasure of the President and may be dismissed by him/her, of course, on the advice of the Prime Minister even when they may have the confidence of the Legislature.

Each Minister is answerable to Parliament for the department under his/her control. It is obligatory for him/her to answer all the questions asked by the MPs, regarding the functioning of his/her department.

Every Minister is responsible for matters such as, (a) personal lapse (b) departure from official policy by him/her or by his/her department (c) breach of oath of secrecy and so on. There are many occasions when a Minister has owned responsibility for the mistakes or shortcomings of the department under him/her and resigned from his/her post.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

The Prime Minister: appointed by the President of India.

Council of Ministers: (i) Cabinet Ministers; (ii) Ministers of State, and (iii) Deputy Ministers.

- **Composition of the Cabinet:** a small body of senior leaders of the party who hold important portfolios and decide major policies of the Government.
- **Appointment:** The Prime Minister recommends his trusted colleagues—The President of India appoints them as ministers—The real executive power under the Indian Constitution vests not in the President but in the Union Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister as its head.

Powers and Functions of the Cabinet

- **Administrative Powers:** (i) Policy Making; (ii) Implementation of Policies (iii) Coordination of the Functioning of various Ministers.
- **Legislative Functions:** (i) Introduction of Bills; (ii) Source of Information; (iii) Amendment to Constitution; (iv) Summoning the Houses of Parliament; (v) President's Special Address; (vi) Issuing Ordinances.
- **Financial Powers:** (i) Budget (ii) Finances of the Government (iii) Introduction of Money Bills.
- **Emergency Powers:** The Cabinet recommends to the President to proclaim Emergency.

Position and Powers of the Prime Minister: (i) All the ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister; (ii) The Prime Minister influences Cabinet decisions; (iii) As Chairman of the Council of Ministers, he/she exercises a casting vote; (iv) He/She acts as a link between the

President and the Cabinet; (v) He/She coordinates the policies of the various departments and ministries; (vi) He/She is the leader of the Lok Sabha and the Chief spokesman of the Government; and (vii) He/She is the Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Individual and Collective Responsibility of the Council of Ministers: The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Parliament and has to resign if it loses the confidence of the Lok Sabha. The Ministers are individually responsible to the President, i.e., they hold office during the pleasure of the President and may be dismissed by him/her, on the advice of the Prime Minister even when they may have the confidence of the Legislature.

EXERCISES

I. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Who heads the Council of Ministers?

- (a) President
- (b) Prime Minister
- (c) Council Minister
- (d) Chief Justice of India

2. What happens if a non-Member of Parliament is appointed as a Minister?

- (a) He/she has to become one within six months of appointment
- (b) He/she has to become a member in the next elections
- (c) He/she can defer the appointment until he/she becomes a member
- (d) He/she cannot be appointed.

3. Which of the following statements about the Prime Minister of India are correct?

P: The Prime Minister is the head of the Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President.

Q: The Prime Minister is not answerable to the people of the country.

R: The members of the majority party in the Lok Sabha elect their leader to be appointed as the Prime Minister.

S: The Prime Minister is the nominal head of the nation.

- (a) P and Q
- (b) P and R
- (c) P and S
- (d) R and S

4. Which of the following statements about the Council of Ministers are correct?

P: The ministers hold office during the pleasure of the Prime Minister.

Q: The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.

R: Every minister must be a member of Lok Sabha.

S: The Prime Minister selects his/her senior and trustworthy colleagues as Cabinet Ministers.

- (a) P and Q
- (b) P and R
- (c) Q and S
- (d) R and S

5. Mohan belongs to the junior most rung of the Council of Ministers. Which group does he belong to?

- (a) Deputy Ministers
- (b) Ministers of State
- (c) Governors
- (d) Cabinet

6. The President's Special Address to Parliament is prepared by

- (a) The Prime Minister
- (b) The Vice President

- (c) The Cabinet
 - (d) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- 7.** Which, amongst the following, is not a Financial Power of the Cabinet?
- (a) Budget
 - (b) Summoning the Lok Sabha
 - (c) Finances of the Government
 - (d) Introduction of Money Bills
- 8.** Identify the Legislative powers of the Cabinet.
- P: The Cabinet is responsible for the expenditure of the Government.
- Q: The Cabinet initiates almost 95 per cent of the Bills.
- R: The ministers answer questions put to them by the members of the Lok Sabha.
- S: The Cabinet directly advises the President of India.
- (a) Q and R
 - (b) P and Q
 - (c) Q and S
 - (d) R and S
- 9.** Whose resignation implies resignation of the whole cabinet?
- (a) Prime Minister
 - (b) President
 - (c) Chief Justice of India
 - (d) Deputy Minister
- 10.** Identity the methods by which Parliament maintains control over the Executive.
- P: By passing a vote of No-confidence in the Council of Ministers.
- Q: By changing the Council of Ministers after every six months.
- R: By electing new Prime Minister after a gap of three years.
- S: By passing an amendment to a bill against the wishes of the Government.
- (a) Q and R
 - (b) P and S
 - (c) R and S
 - (d) P and R
- 11.** Who amongst the following has the power to select and dismiss Ministers?
- (a) President
 - (b) Chief Justice of India
 - (c) Cabinet Minister
 - (d) Prime Minister
- 12.** The initiative of summoning the Houses of Parliament is taken by
- (a) the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
 - (b) the Prime Minister
 - (c) the President
 - (d) the Chief Justice
- 13.** Which of the following statements are correct?
- P: The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- Q: A Vote of No-confidence against one Minister does not have any effect on the entire Ministry.
- R: The Ministers are individually responsible to the Prime Minister of India.
- S: Every Minister is answerable to Parliament for the department under his/her control.
- (a) P and R
 - (b) R and S
 - (c) P and Q
 - (d) P and S
- 14.** Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements I and II.
- (I) The President invites the leader of the majority party or group in the Lok Sabha to form the Government.

- (II) When no single party gets an absolute majority in Lok Sabha, the President uses his/her discretion to appoint the new PM.
- (I) is true, but (II) is false
 - (I) is false, but (II) is true
 - Both (I) and (II) are true, but (II) is not the correct explanation of (I)
 - Both (I) and (II) are false.
15. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements I and II.
- The Council of Ministers is consulted by the Prime Minister on all important decisions.
 - It is the Council of Ministers which advises the President.
- (I) is true, but (II) is false
 - (I) is false, but (II) is true
 - Both (I) and (II) are true, but (II) is not the correct explanation of (I)
 - Both (I) and (II) are false.

II. Short Answer Questions

- State the three categories of Ministers in the Council of Ministers. Which category of ministers is the most important?
- Explain the term 'Collective Responsibility'. Who is the head of the Union Council of Ministers?
- How long can a Minister stay in office? Under what provision can a non-Member of Parliament be made a Minister?
- By whom and on whose advice is the Council of Ministers appointed? A large number of people are killed in a major rail accident. What happens if the Railway Minister resigns from the post on moral grounds?
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla accepted the no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition against the Narendra Modi government over Manipur violence.
— The Hindu, July 26, 2023

What happens when a no-confidence motion is passed? What is the term for such a responsibility?

III. Structured Questions

- With reference to the powers and functions of the Cabinet, briefly state the following:
 - Three Administrative Functions.
 - Three Legislative Functions.
 - Four Financial Functions.
- The Constitution provides a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President. In this context, answer the following questions:
 - Briefly mention three of their functions.
 - How does the Parliament exercise an effective control over the Council of Ministers?
 - State the Cabinet's role in the formulation of policies of the Government.
- Read the excerpt given below and answer the questions that follow:

Modi 3.0 Cabinet highlights: PM Modi allocates portfolios; Rajnath, Shah, Sitharaman, Jaishankar retain ministries.
— The Mint, June 11, 2024

- (a) State any three qualifications which a person should possess to be eligible for appointment as Prime Minister.
- (b) What do you understand by 'cabinet'?
- (c) How is the Prime Minister a link between the Cabinet and the President?
4. With reference to the Prime Minister of India, answer the following questions:
- (a) How can we say that the Prime Minister occupies a unique position in the Parliament?
- (b) State any three powers of the Prime Minister as a Chairperson of the Cabinet.
- (c) Mention three ways in which the Constitution ensures the pre-eminent position of the Prime Minister in relation to the Union Council of Ministers.
5. Read the following excerpt and answer the questions that follow:
- Madhavrao Scindia tendered his resignation as Civil Aviation Minister on January 9, 1993 following the crash of TU-154 aircraft which was carrying 165 persons on board including the crew. Although all the passengers survived the crash Madhavrao resigned on moral grounds as the aircraft had been leased from Russia.*
- (a) Does Madhavrao's resignation reflect Individual Responsibility or Collective Responsibility? Justify.
- (b) State two important differences between Individual and Collective Responsibility.
- (c) Which of these two responsibilities is more important? Why?

IV. Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

1. Suppose you are appointed as the Prime Minister of India. How will you choose your Cabinet and whom would you appoint as Ministers?
2. In a coalition government, a number of parties join together to form the government. There occurs a clash of interests among different parties that makes the government weak. Give your views and reasons to justify them.
3. How does the principle of Collective Responsibility strengthens democracy in India?
4. Suppose you are appointed as the PM of India for a day. What two changes would you like to bring in immediately and why?

