**Trivedi Centre
for Political Data**

ashoka UNIVERSITY

Council of Ministers Dataset 1990-2021 Codebook 1.1
Last Updated: 10 November, 2021

Contents

Terms and Conditions

This dataset contains information on the Indian Council of Ministers[1] between 1990 and 2019. The data has been carefully extracted and verified from the official website of the Cabinet Secretariat and a publication of the Lok Sabha secretariat titled "केंद्रीय मंत्रिपरिषद (1947 - 2011)" which documents the names and portfolios allotted to ministers in this time period.

We table it in an orderly manner, to systematically place the information under variables such as name of the candidates, election year, party name, gender, portfolio, rank, start date of appointment, end date of appointment, and constituency. Moreover, it has also incorporated various minister shuffles between the terms. The data also mentions the sources of information for each instance captured, so that users can verify the same.

We have provided the documentation process in the following sections which lists the various sources and how they were used to populate the data. Moreover, we have also listed detailed exceptions that we came across while populating and checking the dataset, clarifying the assumptions we have made.

As an attempt to produce a clear and thoroughly checked data, the sheet has undergone a number of checks and filters, in order to minimize the number of errors as possible. However, if you do detect any discrepancies in the data, please write to us at tcpd-contact@ashoka.edu.in. The codebook will be updated following the incorporation of any additional information.

The users are free to download, display or include the data in other products for non-commercial purposes at no cost subject. If you do use this data, please cite the data as follows:

> **Data Citation:**, Neelesh Agrawal, Saloni Bhogale, Aritro Bose, Mohit Kumar, Dipanita Malik and Omkar Mishra. 2021. "TCPD-ICoM: Indian Council of Ministers Dataset 1.1", Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University.

> **Codebook Citation:** Neelesh Agrawal, Saloni Bhogale, Aritro Bose, Mohit Kumar, Dipanita Malik and Omkar Mishra. 2021. "TCPD-ICoM: Indian Council of Ministers Dataset Codebook 1.1", Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University.

Thank you.

TCPD Team

---

[1] The Constitution provides for a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at its helm to advice the President in the exercise of his functions. The Cabinet is the inner core of the Council of Ministers, and is an extra-constitutional growth, first recognized by the 44th Constitutional Amendment where it is described as the Council consisting of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of Cabinet rank. The shape, size and structure of Cabinet are decided by the Prime Minister alone at his discretion. For further reading, see H.M. Jain, *Indian Cabinet and Politics* pp: 14-31.

Table 1: Variable names, type, and labels

No.	Variable Name	Variable Type	Variable Label
1	year	numeric	The year of Lok Sabha elections
2	ls_number	numeric	Lok Sabha Number
3	name	string	Name of the Minister
4	party	string	Political Party of the candidate.
5	gender	string	Gender of the Minister
6	portfolio	string	Mentions the Ministry of the Minister
7	rank	string	Mentions the Position of the Minister
8	appointment_begin	date	Date of notification of beginning of appointment (format yyyy-mm-dd)
9	appointment_end	date	Date of notification of appointment end (format yyyy-mm-dd)
10	house	string	Mentions the House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) to which the Minister belongs
11	constituency	string	Name of the constituency
12	state	string	Name of the state
13	pid	string	Connection key to TCPD-IED dataset
14	start_source	string	Mentions the source of the start date of appointment of the Ministers
15	end_source	string	Mentions the source of the end date of appointment of the Ministers
16	comments	string	This section mentions the 'exceptions', with regards to dates, and sources of information
17	type_begin	string	Start of term or mid term
18	type_end	string	Current, mid term, end of term or death of minister

Table 2: Detailed variable description

No.	Variable Name	Variable Description
1	year	Corresponds to either years when Lok Sabha elections were held, either on schedule, or when governments in power were dissolved.
2	ls_no	The number of Lok Sabha elections. For example, the Lok Sabha Elections that took place in the 2014 corresponds to the 16th Lok Sabha.
3	name	Candidate name as mentioned in official source has been captured
4	party	Political Party of the candidate. For the Lok Sabha Ministers, this is the party names provided by ECI. For the Rajya Sabha Ministers, we used the Rajya Sabha Website to establish party names, and mapped them to the ECI abbreviation in order to standardize party names across the dataset.
5	gender	Gender of candidate - limited to 'Male' and 'Female' (M or F)
6	portfolio	Portfolios are captured as per the source documented. The names of ministry change across time, and have **not yet** been standardized. In a future iteration, we will be using the amendments to the First Schedule of the Gazette of India that lays down the 'Allocation of Business' of the government in order to capture precise ministry names. [2]
7	rank	In this dataset, rank takes six values: "CM" for Cabinet Minister, "DM" for Deputy Minister, "MoS" for Minister of State, and "MoS (IC)" for Minister of State (Independent Charge), "PM" for Prime Minister and "DPM" for Deputy Prime Minister[3].
8	appointment_begin	This indicates the beginning of the appointment, captured from the source document on the Cabinet Secretariat Website. Format: yyyy-mm-dd

---

[2] The classification of ministers, the number of ministers in each category and the status accorded to each category are all matters within the personal discretion of the Prime Minister. There is no law or constitutional provision governing this subject, only practice and precedent. For further reading, see H.M. Jain, *Indian Cabinet and Politics* pp: 14-21.

[3] In practice, the Council of Ministers includes Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers. The first category of ministers form the Cabinet. The Deputy Ministers are subordinate to the Ministers. The Ministers of State may be appointed to hold an independent charge or to assist the Cabinet Minister. The three together constitute the Council of Ministers, while the Cabinet is formed of Ministers, called Cabinet Ministers only. This has typically had a three-tier structure but in the early days, a fourth-tier, that of parliamentary secretaries also formed part of the government, though not of the Council of Ministers. For further reading, see H.M. Jain, *Indian Cabinet and Politics* pp: 29-31.

9	appointment_end	This indicates the end of the appointment, captured from the source document. Format: yyyy-mm-dd
10	house	This section particularly mentions the House to which the candidate belongs to - i.e. either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha
11	constituency	Name of the constituency as per the Statistical Reports released by the Election Commission of India for Ministers from the Lok Sabha. If a member is from Rajya Sabha, values in this column are 'NA'
12	state	Name of the state as provided by the Election Commission of India in the Statistical Reports or populated using the details from the Rajya Sabha's website. In case the Minister has been elected multiple times to the Rajya Sabha from different states, the term is divided into 2 rows using the dates for which the candidate relinquishes the Rajya Sabha seat from one state, and is assigned a new state as per the records provided on the Rajya Sabha website.
13	pid	This string is in the following pattern: LSNumber_StateName_ConstituencyNo_PollNo_Position. This is only provided for Ministers from the Lok Sabha, so that they can be easily merged with the TCPD-LokDhaba dataset (TCPD-IED). For Ministers from Rajya Sabha, this variable takes the value of 'NA'
14	start_source	The source for the start date is captured here
15	end_source	The source for the end date is captured here
16	comments	**'Exceptions'** are used when either the end source or start sources are assumed or taken from sources other than the official website of Cabinet Secretariat or the handbook provided by the Lok Sabha. This clarifies any possible misinformation regarding the Candidate's portfolio and duration of that portfolio. They have been elaborated in the Exceptions section of this document.
17	type_begin	Start of term typically coincides with the date of constitution of the Council of Ministers, except for the 15th Lok Sabha, when the details of the opening Council of Ministers were announced over 2 dates in May 2009.
18	type_end	The end of term here is the same as the date of swearing in of the next Council of Ministers (in a few cases, we observe a delay of 2-3 days).

Data Sources

1. Archives of the Cabinet Secretariat, under two heads, as shown below:
   - Initial Composition of Council of Ministers.
   - Change in Portfolios of Ministers
2. केंद्रीय मंत्रिपरिषद (1947 - 2011), Published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, 2011
3. National Portal of India: Primarily used as a secondary source to cross-check existing data and perform spot-checks.
4. Lok Sabha Website, for the following purposes:
   - To check whether the minister belongs to the Lok Sabha
   - Capturing the political party of the minister, this was then standardized using the abbreviations used by the Election Commission of India
   - Gender of the member
   - Cross-checking Minister's portfolios under the "Positions Held" section on each Member's bioprofile. As this data is not complete, it is only checked to resolve discrepancies:
5. Rajya Sabha Website was used as a secondary source to cross-check the data entries, find out if a minister belonged to the Rajya Sabha, verify the State from which the minister was elected and perform spot-checks.
6. Lok Dhaba Website to verify the information regarding constituencies, political parties for Lok Sabha members.

Documentation Process

For the data between 1990 and 2019, the data source was the official website of the Cabinet Secretariat.

1. Use Cabinet Secretariat archives to document the Initial Composition of Ministers
2. Use Cabinet Secretariat Archives to document the Change in Portfolios
3. Depending on the House to which a particular Minister belongs, use Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha website to find data on other variables. Details regarding 'Constituency' have also been compiled from TCPD-IED dataset available on TCPD's LokDhaba Website.
4. Use secondary sources like Wikipedia & news articles to perform spot-checks, verification of dates, constituencies and other credentials of the Ministers.

Exceptions

There are four broad types of exceptions that arise in the data, these either involve a discrepancy in term length of Minister due to an untimely death, usage of a different source to clarify a doubtful entry, changes in wording of Ministry Name or other changes that were discovered but not documented by the Cabinet Secretariat. The details have been expanded below:

Exceptional Cases due to Death of Sitting Minister

1. The date of relinquishment of Dinesh Singh for the post of 'Minister Without Portfolio' has not been mentioned in the official documents on Cabinet Secretary, and therefore, an exception has been marked, which signifies that, on account of his death, he relinquished this post on November 30, 1995.
2. The date of relinquishment of Murasoli Maran for the post of 'Minister Without Portfolio' has not been mentioned in the official documents on Cabinet Secretary, and therefore, an exception has been marked, which signifies that, on account of his death, he relinquished his post on November 24, 2003.
3. The date of relinquishment of P.M. Sayeed for the post of 'Minister of Power' has not been mentioned in the official documents on Cabinet Secretary, and therefore, an exception has been marked, which signifies that, on account of his death, he relinquished this post on December 18, 2005. Hence, the post of 'Minister of Power' was taken up by the Prime Minister, which he relinquished on January 29, 2006.
4. The date of relinquishment of Vilasrao Deshmukh for the post of 'Minister Without Portfolio' has not been mentioned in the official documents on Cabinet Secretary, and therefore, an exception has been marked, which signifies that, on account of his death, he relinquished his post on August 14, 2012.

Exceptional Cases due to a Different Source Used

1. P.V. Narasimha Rao held the position of Minister of Human Resource Development between January 17, 1996 and May 16, 1996. However, this data has been extracted from the केंद्रीय मंत्रिपरिषद book. Therefore, 'exception' signifies that the data has not been derived from the official documents of Cabinet Secretary, but from the book.

Exceptional Cases due to assumptions about Wording/Framing of Ministry Names

1. We are assuming that 'Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation' is same as 'Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation'. This is because the date of relinquishment of Kumari Selja for the post of 'Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation' has not been mentioned in the official documents on Cabinet Secretary. However, she has relinquished the post of 'Housing

and Urban Poverty Alleviation', whose date of swearing is not mentioned. Assuming that the name of 'Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation' might have been changed during the election term to 'Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation', we have deciphered the start and end date of appointment.
2. We are assuming that the name of the portfolio of 'Company Affairs' is actually 'Corporate Affairs' for the term post 2009.
3. We are assuming that the name of the Ministry of Ocean Development was changed to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, for the term between 2004 and 2009.

Exceptional Cases due to changes not documented by the Cabinet Secretariat

1. The date of relinquishment of P.V. Narasimha Rao for the post of 'Minister of Human Resource Development' has been assumed to be February 10, 1995 because on the same date, Madhav Rao assumed the same Portfolio.
2. The date of relinquishment of Kumari Selja for the post of 'Human Resource Development' has been assumed to be September 15, 1995, because on the same date, she assumed the post of Minister of State for Human Resource Development.
3. The date of relinquishment of Mahavir Prasad for the post of 'Minister of Agro and Rural Industries' has not been mentioned in the official documents on Cabinet Secretary. After tallying with other documents, we inferred that no other Minister assumed this Portfolio during the term of 2004-09. Therefore, we have assumed that he relinquished his post on May 22, 2009, the end of the term.
4. The date of relinquishment of Manmohan Singh for the post of 'Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports' has been assumed to be January 29, 2006 as on the same date, Mani Shankar Aiyar assumed the same Portfolio.
5. The date of relinquishment of Manmohan Singh for the post of 'Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs' has been assumed to be November 18, 2005 as on the same date, Oscar Fernandes assumed the same Portfolio.
6. The date of relinquishment of Manmohan Singh for the post of 'Urban Development' has been assumed to be November 18, 2005 as on the same date, S. Jaipal Reddy assumed the same Portfolio.
7. Oscar Fernandez became the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labor and Employment on 24 Oct 2006, so he no longer held the post of "Minister Without Portfolio" after this date.

Appendix

Political Parties in Dataset

No.	Acronym used	Party Name
1	BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
2	INC	Indian National Congress
3	TDP	Telugu Desam Party
4	SAD	Shiromani Akali Dal
5	LJP	Lok Janshakti Party
6	RPI	Republican Party of India
7	DMK	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
8	NCP	Nationalist Congress Party
9	RLD	Rashtriya Lok Dal
10	AITC	All India Trinamool Congress
11	NC	National Conference (J&K)
12	MUL	Indian Union Muslim League
13	RJD	Rashtriya Janata Dal
14	TRS	Telangana Rashtra Samithi
15	PMK	Pattali Makkal Katchi
16	SHS	Shiv Sena
17	BJD	Biju Janata Dal
18	SP	Samajwadi Party
19	JD	Janata Dal
20	JD(U)	Janata Dal (United)
21	ADMK	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
22	AC	Arunachal Congress
23	AGP	Asom Gana Parishad
24	JD(S)	Janata Dal (Secular)
25	CPI	Communist Party of India

26	JP	Janata Party
27	IND	Independent
28	TMC(M)	Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)
29	MAG	Maharashtrawadi Gomantak
30	AIIC(T)	All India Indira Congress (Tiwari)
31	SAP	Samata Party
32	MSCP	Manipur State Congress Party
33	MDMK	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
34	JKN	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference
35	KEC(M)	Kerala Congress (M)
36	JMM	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha
37	LJNSP	Lok Jan Shakti Party
38	BLSP	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party
39	AD	Apna Dal
40	MADMK	M.G.R.Anna D.M.Kazhagam

Illustration of Data Analysis

Example: Representation of States in 'Cabinet Minister' position for NDA's 2014 term:

State Name	Number of CM Portfolios
Madhya_Pradesh	15
Uttar_Pradesh	14
Maharashtra	12
Karnataka	10
Bihar	8
Gujarat	8
Haryana	5
Andhra_Pradesh	4
Delhi	4
Rajasthan	3
West_Bengal	1
Himachal_Pradesh	1
Punjab	1
Odisha	1

The above table has been created by counting the number of CM portfolios allotted to MPs from each state. This may be an incorrect way of analysing the data for the following reasons:

1. Council of Ministers hold offices for a range of periods: while some may hold office for 3-4 months, others may hold an office for entire terms (~5 years). Bucketing them all together might be incorrect.

2. Council of Ministers belonging to the Rajya Sabha may change the state
   from which they are elected in the same term. This may lead to double
   counting for the same person. For instance, Arun Jaitley was an MP of
   Rajya Sabha from Gujarat, and later from Uttar Pradesh. However, here he
   will be double counted unless care is taken to avoid double counting.

Instead, here is how you can frame the analysis:

Representation of States in 'Cabinet Minister' position for the NDA's 2014
term **(as on 31st May 2014)**:

State Name	Number of CM Portfolios
Uttar_Pradesh	7
Madhya_Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	6
Karnataka	5
Gujarat	4
Bihar	4
Odisha	1
Punjab	1
Andhra_Pradesh	1
Delhi	1

This analysis is correctly representing the data as it is clarified that this
is the Cabinet on a **particular** date, i.e. this is the composition of Cabinet
Ministers in the Council of Ministers on 31st May 2014.