

**Subject: Constitution of a Committee of Ministers on Dalit Affairs.**

It has been decided with the approval of the Prime Minister to constitute a Committee of Ministers on Dalit Affairs. The composition of the Committee will be as below:

- Shri Pranab Mukherjee,  
Minister of Defence.
- Shri Arjun Singh,  
Minister of Human Resource Development.
- Shri Sharad Pawar,  
Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs,  
Food & Public Distribution.
- Shri Shivraj V. Patil,  
Minister of Home Affairs.
- Shri Ram Vilas Paswan,  
Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of Steel.
- Shri Mahavir Prasad,  
Minister of Small Scale Industries and Minister of Agro &  
Rural Industries.
- Shri H.R. Bhardwaj,  
Minister of Law & Justice.
- Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh,  
Minister of Rural Development.
- Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi,  
Minister of Water Resources.
- Smt. Meira Kumar,  
Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Shri K. Chandra Sekhar Rao,  
Minister of Labour & Employment.
- Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,  
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.
- Shri Suresh Pachouri,  
Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public  
Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the  
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Special Invitees :


Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territories (as required).

2. The Committee will over-see in a consolidated manner the effective pooling together and implementation of different programmes/ schemes under-various Ministries/Departments that relate to the welfare and development of Dalits. It will identify the gaps in the existing schemes and help develop new programmes for eliminating the gaps. It will consider, make recommendations on, devise strategies/programmes for and monitor all the items listed in Annexure-I.

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3. The Committee will be serviced by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

  
(K.L. Sharma)  
for Cabinet Secretary  
Tel: 23015802