

Composition and Functions of the Cabinet Committees

19/12/2005

1) **The Cabinet Committee on Security.**

Composition

Prime Minister.
Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Defence.
Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of Home Affairs.
Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance.

Functions

- i) To deal with all Defence related issues;
- ii) To deal with law and order and internal security related issues;
- iii) To deal with policy matters concerning foreign affairs that have internal or external security implications; and
- iv) Economic and political issues impinging on national security.

2) **Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs.**

Composition

Prime Minister.
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 Lalu Prasad, Minister of Railways.
Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of Home Affairs.
Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance.
Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & Information Technology.

Functions

- i) To deal with problems relating to Centre-State relations;
- ii) To consider economic and political issues that have to be judged with a wider perspective; and
- iii) To deal with policy matters concerning foreign affairs that do not have external or internal security implications.

3) **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.**

Composition

Prime Minister.
Shri Shivrāj V. Patil,
Minister of Home Affairs.
Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry.

Functions

- i) To take decisions in respect of appointments specified in Annexure I to the First Schedule to the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules;
- ii) to take decisions in respect of the empanelments specified in Annexure II to the First Schedule to the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules;
- iii) to decide all cases of disagreement relating to appointments between the Department or Ministry concerned and the Union Public Service Commission;
- iv) to decide all cases of disagreement relating to appointments to board-level positions in public sector enterprises between the Department or Ministry concerned and the Public Enterprises Selection Board; and
- v) to consider and decide representations from officers of the rank of Joint Secretaries or equivalent and above against adverse remarks.

4) **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.**

Composition

Prime Minister.
Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Defence.
Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
Shri Lalu Prasad, Minister of Railways.
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of Steel.
Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance.
Shri T.R. Baalu, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.
Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce & Industry.
Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister of Rural Development.
Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & Information Technology.

Special Invitee

Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

Functions

- i) To review on a continuous basis economic trends, problems and prospects with a view to evolving a consistent and integrated economic policy framework for the country;
- ii) to direct and coordinate all activities in the economic field including foreign investment, requiring policy decisions at the highest level;
- iii) to deal with matters relating to fixation of prices of agricultural products and price controls of industrial raw materials and products, industrial licensing policies and foreign investment policies;
- iv) to deal with price increases of essential commodities or bulk goods under any form of formal or informal control including increase in salaries or wages in the case of a large number of employees;
- v) to lay down priorities for public sector investment and to consider specified proposals for investment as cleared by the Public Investment Board;
- vi) to deal with industrial licensing cases involving proposals from Central Ministries for the establishment of Joint Sector Undertakings;
- vii) to review the performance of Public Sector Enterprises;
- viii) to review progress for rural development including that relating to small and marginal farmers;
- ix) to consider and decide upon the measures - fiscal, financial, institutional and legal - required to enhance investment in the infrastructure sector, including grant of requisite approvals to facilitate private sector investment in specific projects;
- x) to review the progress in implementation of infrastructure projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores in sectors like railways, coal, steel, power, surface transport and in other infrastructure sectors which may be of critical importance to the economy;
- xi) to facilitate finalization of a factual report on the accomplishments of the Central Ministries, Agencies and PSUs involved in implementation of prioritized schemes/projects for evaluation by Prime Minister;
- xii) to consider issues relating to disinvestment;
- xiii) to decide price band for the sale of Government shares through GDR/domestic capital market route prior to the book building exercise, to decide the final price of sale in all cases;

- xiv) to decide the final pricing of the transaction and the strategic partner in case of the strategic sales;
- xv) to decide on cases where there is disagreement between the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and the views of the Department of Disinvestment;

Notes: Decisions in respect of functions listed in sub-para (xiii) above may be taken by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) consisting of the Minister of Finance, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Minister of the Administrative Ministry concerned with the public sector enterprise whose proposals come up for consideration.

5) Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

Composition

- Shri Arjun Singh,
Minister of Human Resource Development.
- Shri Sharad Pawar,
Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Shri Lalu Prasad,
Minister of Railways.
- Shri Ram Vilas Paswan,
Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of Steel.
- Shri S. Jaipal Reddy,
Minister of Culture and Minister of Urban Development.
- Shri Dayanidhi Maran,
Minister of Communications & Information Technology.

Functions

- i) To determine the guidelines/rules and terms and conditions to govern out-of-turn allotment of Government accommodation;
- ii) to decide upon allotment of Government accommodation to various categories of non-eligible persons and organizations and rate of rent to be charged from them;
- iii) to consider the question of allotment of accommodation from the General Pool to the Members of Parliament;
- iv) to consider proposals regarding shifting of existing Central Government Offices to places outside Delhi and the location of new offices in Delhi; and

- v) to consider and decide upon proposals relating to :-
 - a) revision of scales of accommodation to various categories of persons;
 - b) revision of licence fee for various types of Government Accommodation; and
 - c) other matters, like allotment of accommodation to the various categories of Central Government servants from the Central Pool or Special Pool.

6) **Cabinet Committee on Management of Natural Calamities.**

Composition

- Prime Minister.
- Shri Sharad Pawar,
Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Shri Lalu Prasad,
Minister of Railways.
- Shri Shivraj V. Patil,
Minister of Home Affairs.
- Shri P. Chidambaram,
Minister of Finance.
- Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh,
Minister of Rural Development.
- Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi,
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting.
- Shri A. Raja,
Minister of Environment & Forests.
- Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss,
Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
- Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev,
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Special Invitee

- Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

Functions

- (i) to oversee all aspects relating to management of natural calamities including assessment of the situation and identification of measures considered necessary to reduce its impact;

- (ii) to examine and implement programmes for reducing the adverse impact of natural calamities;
- (iii) to monitor and suggest long term measures for prevention of such calamities in future; and
- (iv) to formulate and recommend programmes for public awareness for building up society's resilience to natural calamities.

The Committee will be serviced by the Ministry of Home Affairs in all cases except in the cases relating to Drought Management, in which case, it will be serviced by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

7) **Cabinet Committee on Prices.**

Composition

- Prime Minister.
- Shri Pranab Mukherjee,
Minister of Defence.
- Shri Sharad Pawar,
Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer
Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Shri Lalu Prasad,
Minister of Railways.
- Shri Ram Vilas Paswan,
Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and
Minister of Steel.
- Shri P. Chidambaram,
Minister of Finance.
- Shri Kamal Nath,
Minister of Commerce & Industry.
- Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar,
Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and
Minister of Panchayati Raj.
- Shri Dayanidhi Maran,
Minister of Communications & Information
Technology.

Special Invitees

- Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.
- Shri Prithviraj Chavan,
Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Functions

- i) To monitor the general price situation in the country and to decide upon the appropriate corrective measures;
- ii) to assess the internal availability of all essential and agricultural commodities and to authorise effective steps;
- iii) to take decisions on export of all essential and agricultural commodities particularly from FCI stocks keeping in view the price implications for the domestic market;
- iv) to consider measures required for making the Public Distribution System more efficient and effective and to determine the prices of articles supplied through the System; and
- v) to review measures regarding enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act and other related statutory provisions.

8) Cabinet Committee on WTO Matters.

Composition

- Prime Minister.
- Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Defence.
- Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of Steel.
- Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance
- Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela, Minister of Textiles.
- Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce & Industry.
- Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister of Rural Development.
- Shri Dayanidhi Maran, Minister of Communications & Information Technology.
- Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Department of Ocean Development.

Special Invitees

- Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.
- Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Function

To consider and decide on issues pertaining to the World Trade Organization.

9) **Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.**

Composition

- Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Defence.
- Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- Shri Lalu Prasad, Minister of Railways.
- Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of Home Affairs.
- Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of Steel.
- Shri T.R. Baalu, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.
- Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, Minister of Law & Justice.
- Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting.

Special Invitee

- Shri Suresh Pachouri, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- Shri B.K. Handique, Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.
- Smt. Suryakanta Patil, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Functions

- i) To watch the progress of Government business in Parliament and to give such directions as may be necessary from time to time, in order to secure smooth and efficient conduct of such business;
- ii) to scrutinize, and to consider the attitude of the Government on, non-official bills and resolutions to be presented to Parliament;
- iii) to review legislations undertaken by State Legislatures from an all-India point of view; and
- iv) to consider proposals to summon or prorogue the Houses of Parliament.

The committee will be serviced by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

10) **Cabinet Committee on Tribal Affairs.**

Composition

- Shri Shivraj V. Patil
Minister of Home Affairs
- Shri P.R. Kyndiah,
Minister of Tribal Affairs and
Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
- Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh,
Minister of Rural Development.
- Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and
Minister of Information & Broadcasting.
- Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar,
Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and
Minister of Panchayati Raj.
- Shri A. Raja,
Minister of Environment and Forests.
- Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss,
Minister of Health & Family Welfare.
- Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev,
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the
Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the
Ministry of Water Resources.

Special Invitee

- Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

Functions

- i) Examination of issues relating to resources ownership of tribals to land historically under their possession and rights to minor forest produce;
- ii) Developing strategies for development that combine the objectives of environmental conservation and economic development of tribal communities.
- iii) Re-orienting the strategy of Tribal Sub Plans to ensure that the historical backlog of tribal people in sectors like education, health, irrigation, electricity, road connectivity, drinking water supply and other basic needs are ensured and developing a Tribal Development Index to monitor this. Measurable targets of crucial indicators should be fixed for tribal areas.
- iv) Consider converting the current Policy of Rehabilitation into a law as far as tribal areas are concerned so that large scale displacement from their habitat is avoided and rehabilitation is effectively ensured.

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- v) Creating powers for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to intervene on matters that vitally impinge on tribal rights to resources guaranteed under existing laws like PESA by restricting other Ministries from unilateral action that may infringe on tribal rights, which would require the concurrence of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
- vi) Ensuring conditionalities through Centrally Sponsored Programmes that posts in tribal areas in areas like education and health are filled up;
- vii) Monitoring of implementation of PESA by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
- viii) Ensuring that possibilities of value addition of NTFP are exploited in favour of tribal population through appropriate policy and programmes.

The committee will be serviced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

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