

THE PRIME MINISTER

The Indian Prime Minister is the real executive head of the state and the most powerful functionary under the constitution. He is the the embodiment of the government in the eyes of the public. Ambedkar compare the Indian Prime Minister to the president of USA , due to the vast powers bestowed on the Prime Minister. The central position of the prime minister in a parliamentary system of government has led to rechristening this form as the prime ministerial system of government.

Appointment: the Prime Minister is appointed by the president. Generally, the president invites the leader of the majority part in the the Lok Sabha to become the prime minister and to form the Council of Ministers. It is the business of the majority party in the Lok Sabha to choose their leader, who will be formerly called upon to head the government.

Term of office: the Prime Minister holds office for a term of 5 years. He remains in office as long as he has the support of the majority in the Lok Sabha

Oath: the prime minister has to take the oath of office and secrecy from the president of India

Powers and functions of the Prime Minister

1. Formation of the Council of Ministers

- Article 74 of the Indian Constitution is very clear that there shall be a council of minister headed by the prime minister which indicates the role of prime minister.**H.J.Laski** says “ Prime Minister is Central to cabinet formation, Central to its life, Central to its death.” article 75 (1) case that the Prime Minister advises the president in the appointment of ministers.
- The Prime Minister determined the size (number) of the ministry.
- The Prime Minister is also involved in the distribution of portfolios and reshuffling of this portfolios
- The power of removing the Minister is also vested in the hands of the Prime Minister.

Regarding the above powers of the Prime Minister , there is nothing in the constitution which may by the prime minister in the selection of his team to make the Council of Ministers. But there are certain political considerations ,party obligations and geographical consideration which limit is author Rati in the formation of the ministry.

2. The leader of the cabinet

Prime Minister is the leader of the cabinet and presides over its meetings. He fixes the date of its meetings, its agenda and presides over them. He also take important decisions subject to the cabinet ratification. He coordinates the work of the cabinet. He is the arbiter of disputes between ministers. He is a court of appeal for his Colleagues who do not see Eye To Eye with another one another. He has to be consulted by his colleagues on all matters.

3.As the leader of parliament

The Prime Minister is the leader of the house of the people. He determined the days of its meeting and its program for the session to stop he decides when the house should be prorogued or

dissolved. He determined the membership of its various committees. The ultimate responsibility for the smooth conduct of government business in the Parliament belongs to the Prime Minister. He is the chief spokesman of the government in the Parliament. He expresses his opinion on important matters, takes part in important debates and also make important policy statements. All the questions on critical issues are addressed to him. When the Minister comes into conflict with the parliament, Prime Minister intervenes and pacifies member of the Parliament.

4.As the link between the president and the cabinet

The Prime Minister is the main link between the president and the cabinet. It is his duty to keep the president informed of all decisions of the cabinet or any additional information called for by the president. He consults the president on matter of public importance. He is also the chief advisor to the President of India. He advises the president in discharge of his function which is binding on the president.

5. As the executive head of the government

The Prime Minister is the executive head of the government . He is responsible for the formation and execution of government policy. He is also responsible for the efficiency and integrity of the government. The Prime Minister is the automatic spokesman of the nation. All people look up to him in times of crisis and on formal state occasions for an authoritative expression of policy and opinion. The Prime Minister is the party and the government. He is a friend, philosopher, and guide for the entire nation. He represents the nation in International consultations.

Conclusion: Thus the Prime Minister occupies a Supreme position in Indian politics and government. All the powers which are formally vested in the Indian President, are exercised by the Prime Minister. He is also called as the supreme ruler and manager in chief of the governments bussiness. He is also an elected king.