

- They are of two types—**standing and ad hoc**. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems.
- They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition vary from time to time.
- They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
- There are about 6 cabinet committees on important issues like defense, appointments on higher echelons of bureaucracy is done by cabinet committee. (cabinet committee on appointment, cabinet committee on security, cabinet committee on political affairs, cabinet committees on defense, cabinet committees on economic affairs etc.)
- In past many cabinet committees has also been established for special purpose such as Cabinet Committee on Unique Identification Authority, Cabinet Committee on World Trade Organization Matters etc.

Role of cabinet committee is recognized in convention:

- As cabinet is a body consisting to around 30-35 minister hence swift decision making becomes difficult sometimes. Hence cabinet committees constituted to achieve co-ordination among various ministries. It was recognized in allocation of rules of business 1961.
- In theory all the decision is collectively taken by the council of minister but in practice implementation of any decision depends upon the nod of cabinet committee.

In 2019 with advent of new government in centre, cabinet committees have been restructured and reconstituted. This has ignited the debate of centralization vs. decentralization in administration.

Cabinet committee on appointment had 2 member i.e. prime minister himself and other is minister of home affairs which raises the doubt of centralization however **2 more committee** has been constituted i.e. **cabinet committees on investment and growth and cabinet committee on employment and skill development** this can be considered as expansion of cabinet committees and decentralization.

Thus cabinet committees symbolizes that 6-7 members of committee will take the decision, and constitution of more cabinet committees implies that decision making power is not located in one person i.e. prime minister alone. But the manner in which these committees are constituted and member who are the part of these committees as well as fact that whether prime minister heads these committees or not, all these things implies of centralization in administration.

In broad sense functioning of cabinet committees symbolizes

1. **Division of work.**

2. **Specialization.**

CONCLUSION: In a way their functioning brings decentralization, breakdown of silos, more coordination in functioning of cabinet. Therefore, it can't be said that it resembles more centralization, but at the same time it can't be denied the centralizing trend in Indian administration. Nevertheless, the role of cabinet committees is helping cabinet functioning effectively

1. (b) **“The Rule of Law and maintenance of order is the science of governance”- Kautilya. Comment.**

Ans:

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