

FEATURES OF THE CABINET SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF UK



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LIST OF FEATURES:

1. Distinction between Nominal and Real Executive.
2. Close relationship between the Cabinet & the Parliamentary Majority.
3. Leadership of the Prime Minister.
4. Political Homogeneity.
5. Ministerial Responsibility.
6. Cabinet Secrecy.
7. Strong and effective Opposition.

I. Distinction between Nominal and Real Executive:

- There are two types of executives – nominal & Real.
- King/Queen is only the nominal executive where as the Prime Minister and his cabinet forms the real executive.
- In theory, all powers are vested in the name of the King but are really exercised by the Prime Minister and his men.
- That is why it has been said in England that, the King in England reigns but does not rules.

2. Close relationship between the Cabinet & Parliamentary Majority:

- According to Bagehot, cabinet is the hyphen that joins the buckle that binds the legislative and executive departments of the government together.
- It is the majority party in the lower house of the Parliament that forms the Government.
- In fact all the members of the cabinet are the members of the Parliament.
- Cabinet can remain in power as long as it enjoys the support and confidence of the majority of members in the Parliament.

3. Leadership of the Prime Minister:

- The leader of the majority party in the House of Commons will be appointed as the Prime Minister, immediately after the General elections.
- If the King is the head of the State, Prime minister is the head of the government, the chairman of the cabinet and leader of the parliament.
- He is the pivot around which the entire governmental machinery revolves. – H.J.Laski.
- He is the Key-stone of the cabinet arch.(Lowell).

4. Political Homogeneity:

- Cabinet government is a party government.
- The party that secures majority forms the government in this system.
- English governments are run by a single political party and its people does not loves coalitions.
- It has the advantage of formulation of policy made easy and arrive at decisions quickly and smoothly and hence can provide for a stable and efficient governments.

5. Ministerial Responsibility:

- This is the cardinal feature of a cabinet system of government.
- Cabinet governments are always called as responsible government.
- The concept of Ministerial responsibility implies three things –
 1. Government do not act irresponsibly – do not abuse wide legal powers which they possess.
 2. Responsive to public opinion – acts in accordance with the wishes of the people.
 3. Government is answerable to the parliament for all its acts individually and collectively.

6. Cabinet Secrecy:

- The deliberations and proceedings of the cabinet are highly secret and confidential.
- The meetings of the cabinet are held in camera and are not often leaked out to press or public.



7. Strong and Effective Opposition:

- It is another important essential for the successful functioning of the cabinet system of government.
- Her Majesty's Opposition is the alternative government or the government in waiting.
- It always act responsibly and make only constructive criticism.
- It will not make any wild promises in order to destabilize the government in power.