

1. WHAT IS COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY? HOW IS THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COLLECTIVELY RESPONSIBLE TO THE PARLIAMENT?

Collective responsibility refers to accountability of the Council of Ministers as a body to the Lower House of the Parliament for its omissions and commissions. It is the fundamental principle underlying the working of parliamentary system of government. Article 75(3) clearly states that the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. They work as a team and swim or sink together. When the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion against the council of ministers, all the members have to resign including those ministers who are from Rajya Sabha.

The principle of collective responsibility also means that the cabinet decisions are binding on all cabinet members and other ministers even if they differed in the meeting. It is the duty of every minister to stand by cabinet decisions and support them both within and outside the Parliament. In case, any minister disagrees with the cabinet decision he or she must resign. CD Deshmukh resigned on the policy of reorganization of states.



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