

Recommendations of Venkatachalliah Commission on Constitutional Reforms (year 2000)

- 1. Cabinet size not to exceed 10% of legislature strength (at Central / State level) watered down to 15%.**
- 2. For a strength of 543 M.Ps in Lok Sabha, this would still mean 81 member Jumbo cabinet.**
- 3. For smaller states like Goa, Sikkim etc. where no. of legislators are less than 40, limit is 12. Still too high (30% of legislature strength).**

Ministerships distributed as a Largesse

- a. M.C. Chagla – 'Ministership – A badge of disloyalty rather than a reward for merit'
- b. Professionals play second fiddle

Our Ministers

- a. Busy with the Party work
- b. More concerned with Public Image
- c. Large Majority Engrossed in personal gains for themselves / Party Bosses

Secondary Largesse for left-out Legislators

- **Chairmanship of Public Corporations (State Electricity Boards, Finance Corporation, Tourism Corporation etc.)**
- **Constitution amended to facilitate this.**
- **Rajya Sabha members also entitled for same amount. M.L.As also have their quota as fixed by States.**
- **Allocation of Rs. 5 crores (raised in 2011 from Rs.2 crores!) to be spent annually in their constituency as per their choice under MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) (widely misused & misappropriated).**

(contd.)



If You Have a Hold You Have a Post !



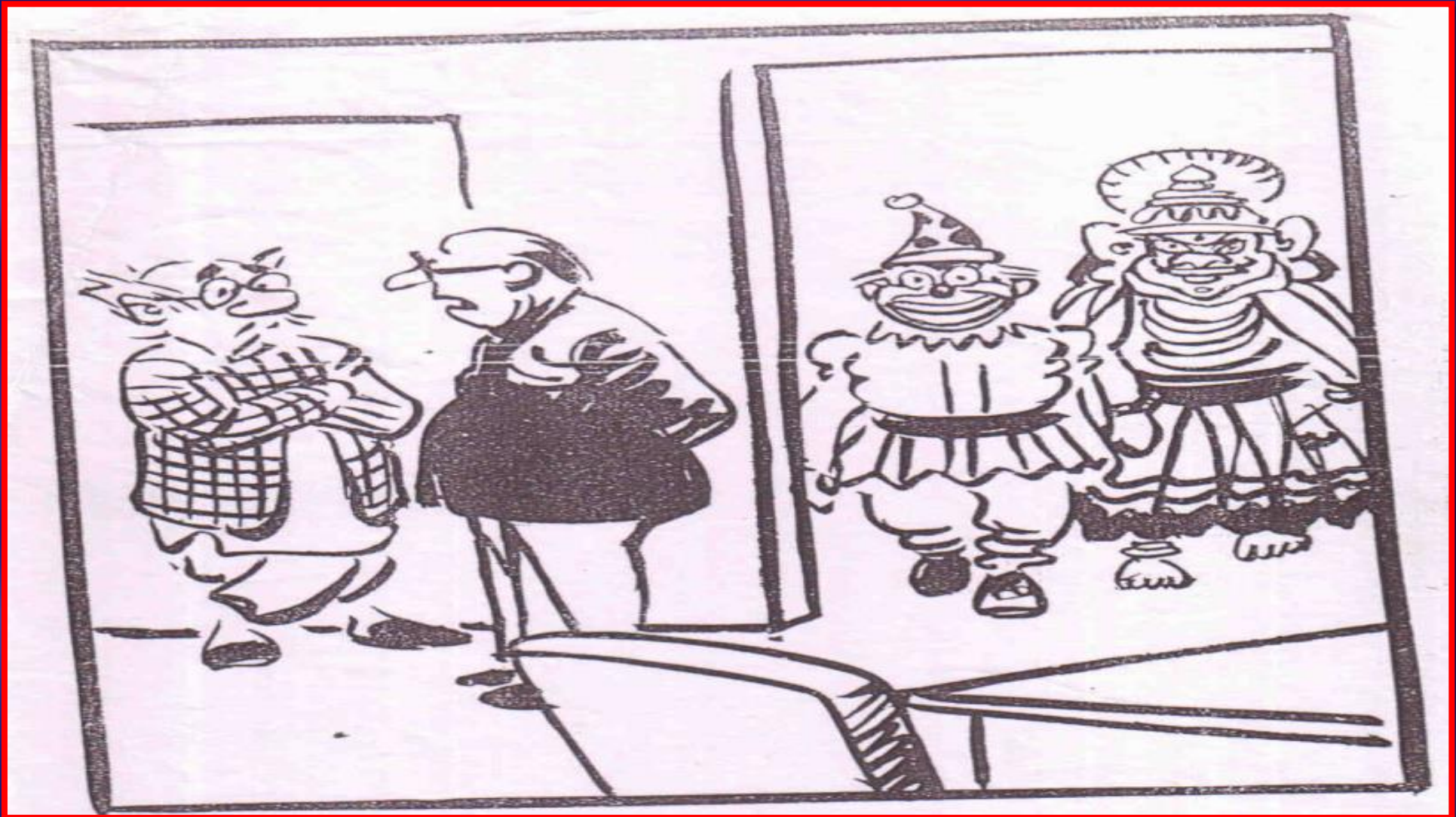
Ministership, A Badge of Disloyalty !



**Whether at Home or in Office,
Obsessed with Party Work !**



Any Measures to Woo the Voters !



The rumour is he is looking for a couple of really new faces to include in the new Cabinet!

Cabinet Composition / Functioning (U.S.A)

- (a) Member of Parliament cannot join Cabinet. President free to select the best talent**
- (b) Choice of cabinet solely left to the President**
- (c) Senate has full power to confirm or reject any member of cabinet or any important appointments made by the President**
- (d) Thorough vetting process. Even FBI provides confidential report for all the ministers to the President**
- (e) Total period 10 weeks for all the above process**

(contd.)

- f) Legislature has no vested interest in Cabinet as no member can form part of the cabinet**
- g) Majority consists of Hardcore professionals/ Intellectuals / Eminent People**
- h) Full-time dedicated for a particular job for full term**
- i) No distraction of party politics or spend time on the constituency or woo the voters**
- j) Not inclined to remain in limelight or waste time in attending public functions / self publicity for being elected**

k) Not required to collect funds for themselves or for the party for elections

l) No need to please M.L.A.s / M.P.s

Practice of selection of Cabinet from outside Parliament also prevalent in countries having parliamentary democracy e.g.

a) Germany : Full freedom to Chancellor to select his team from outside the Parliament.

b) Japan : PM can induct upto 50% ministers from outside Parliament.

Cabinet – Obama

- *Secretary of Energy* - Renowned Physicist
- *Secretary of Treasury* - Master's degree in International Economics
- *Secretary of Education* - Chief Executive of the Chicago Public Schools
- *Secretary of Labor* - Graduate - California State Polytechnic University
- *Attorney General* - Graduate - Columbia University & Columbia Law School;
- *Director of Central Intelligence Agency* – Graduate & degree in Law from the University of Santa Clara
- *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development* - Degrees in Public Administration & Architecture;
- *Commerce Secretary* - Attended Yale & Boston University Law School;
- *Secretary of Veterans Affairs* - Has a career in the Army & was Chief of Staff
- *Secretary of State* - Graduate - Wellesley & degree in Law from Yale University;
- *National Security Advisor* – Mastered subtle art of coalition diplomacy during wartime.

(Note: The above list is only indicative and not complete) 41

Cabinet – Clinton (1992-2000)

- *The Secretary of State* :- Graduate from the Stanford Law School;
- *Secretary of Defence* :- had worked in Pentagon with former Defence Secretary, Robert McNamara. Degrees from Yale, Oxford and MIT;
- *National Security Advisor* :- Graduate of Harvard and Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs;
- *Director of Central Intelligence* :- Law degree from Yale University;
- *Secretary of Health and Human Services* :- Ex-Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin. Selected by Business Week as one of the top five managers in higher education;
- *Chairperson of the Council of Economic Advisers* :- Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley

(Note: The above list is only indicative and not complete)

The role of Legislature

Our present model

v/s

**Presidential system
(US model)**

Our present scenario

- No permanent Standing Committees for analysing or scrutiny of legislation.
- Only 3 Permanent Committees, Public Accounts, Public Undertakings and Estimates Committee.
- Select Committees appointed on ad hoc basis for few controversial bills
- Committees / Commission appointed from experts outside Parliament reports on some subjects / issues. Reports mostly consigned to cold storage.