Consultative Committees

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Why in News

Farooq Abdullah and Pragya Thakur have been nominated as members of the consultative committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Defence.

> The committee comprises 12 members from the Lok Sabha and 9 from the Rajya Sabha and is chaired by the Defence Minister.

- **Formation**
  - These committees are **constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.**
  - These are normally constituted after the new Lok Sabha is constituted.
  - This implies that these committees stand dissolved upon dissolution of every Lok Sabha and thus, are **reconstituted upon constitution of each Lok Sabha.**
- **Composition**
  - The guidelines regarding the composition, functions and procedures of these committees are formulated by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
  - The same Ministry also makes arrangements for holding their meetings both during the session and the intersession period of Parliament.
  - These consist of **members of both the Houses of Parliament.**
  - However, the **membership of these committees is voluntary** and is left to the choice of the members and the leaders of their parties.
  - The **maximum** membership of a committee is **30** and the **minimum** is **10.**
- **Functions**
  - These committees are **attached to various ministries/departments** of the Central Government.
  - The **Minister/Minister of State in charge of the Ministry** concerned acts as the chairman of the consultative committee of that ministry.
  - These provide a **forum for informal discussions** between the ministers and the members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the government and the manner of their implementation.

- The Consultative Committees are **not Parliamentary Committees.**
  - A parliamentary committee means a committee that:
    - Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman.
    - Works under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman.
    - Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/Chairman.
    - Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha.

Source: TH