

I. THE UNION LEGISLATURE

CHAPTER I

The Union Parliament—I

Syllabus

The Union Legislature

Meaning of the Federal Setup in India

Lok Sabha — term, composition, qualifications for membership. Parliamentary procedures: a brief idea of sessions, quorum, question hour, types of questions-meaning of starred, unstarred and short notice questions, zero hour, adjournment and no-confidence motion. Anti Defection Law provisions, passing of Ordinary and Money Bills.

Speaker — election, removal and functions.

Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. In contrast to a federal government, a unitary government is the one in which there is only one level of government with the sub-units being subordinate to the Central Government.

In a federal system of government, all the administrative powers are divided between the Central and the State governments and both are supreme within their respective spheres according to the Constitution. The State Governments are neither the agents of the Central Government nor do they draw their authority from it. On the other hand, both the Central and State Governments draw their authority from the same Constitution. India has opted for a federal system of Government, though with a strong unitary bias.

Federal Setup in India

The Constitution of India has provided for a federal system of Government, though the term 'federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution.

The Constitution of India originally provided for a two-tier government — the Union government and the State governments. Later, a third level of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities. In India, the power is divided between the Central government and the constituent States. However, the Central government is more powerful than the States.

- (i) India is a large country with 28 States and eight Union Territories. It is not possible in the Indian federal system for the States to break away as a separate unit from the union of India. This is essential for maintaining the unity and integrity of India.
- (ii) A federal system is the only system suitable to a country like India, consisting

Important Features of Federalism

- There are two or more levels of government and the different levels of government govern the same citizens, but each level has its own jurisdiction (legal authority) in specific matters of legislation, administration and taxation.
- The jurisdiction of each level of government is specified in the Constitution.
- The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by any one level of government. Such changes can be made by the consent of both the levels of government.
- The disputes between different levels of government which arise due to the exercise of their respective powers are settled by the courts.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly demarcated to ensure their financial autonomy.

of various types of people. This is of utmost importance if India is to be saved from separatist forces fighting for fragmentation and provincialism of the country.

- (iii) There is a division of legislative and administrative powers between the Union and the State Governments and none of them could violate the limitations imposed by the Constitution. The Supreme Court stands at the head of Judiciary to safeguard this distribution of powers and to prevent any action which violates the limitations imposed by the Constitution.
- (iv) The States have been given the right to participate in the functioning of the government. India has a bicameral legislature, i.e., the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha mainly comprises representatives of the States.
- (v) No system of federation can be successful unless both the Union and the States have adequate financial resources to enable them to discharge their duties. The Constitution of India has made provisions for the distribution of revenue between the Centre and the States. This has ensured equitable distribution of the financial resources between the two units.

Non-Federal or Unitary Features

The Constitution of India has certain non-federal or unitary features which have led the critics to say that it is not merely federal in form but unitary in spirit. Some of the important unitary features of our Constitution are as under:

1. A Strong Centre: The Constitution of India provides for a strong Centre, a feature of unitary government. The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India defines and specifies allocation of powers and functions between Union and States. For this division of powers there are three lists, namely, *the Union List*, *the State List* and *the Concurrent List*. The Union Government has exclusive powers to legislate on matters relating to the Union List whereas the State Governments have exclusive power to legislate on matters in the State List. In the Concurrent List, both the Centre and the States have power to legislate, but the Central Government enjoys an overriding position.

Representation of States and Union Territories in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha*

States	Rajya Sabha	Lok Sabha
Andhra Pradesh	11	25
Arunachal Pradesh	1	2
Assam	7	14
Bihar	16	40
Chhattisgarh	5	11
Goa	1	2
Gujarat	11	26
Haryana	5	10
Himachal Pradesh	3	4
Jharkhand	6	14
Karnataka	12	28
Kerala	9	20
Madhya Pradesh	11	29
Maharashtra	19	48
Manipur	1	2
Meghalaya	1	2
Mizoram	1	1
Nagaland	1	1
Odisha	10	21
Punjab	7	13
Rajasthan	10	25
Sikkim	1	1
Tamil Nadu	18	39
Telangana	7	17
Tripura	1	2
Uttarakhand	3	5
Uttar Pradesh	31	80
West Bengal	16	42

Union Territories

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	1
Chandigarh	—	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	—	2
Delhi	3	7
Jammu & Kashmir	4	5
Ladakh	—	1
Lakshadweep	—	1
Puducherry	1	1

* In 2024.

2. A Single Constitution for Union and States: The States in India have not been given any right to make their own Constitution. The framers of the Constitution have provided for a single common and unified Constitution, both for the Centre and the States.

3. Flexibility of the Constitution: The Constitution of India is rather flexible. In other federations, amendments to the Constitution can be made only with the consent and approval of the units. In India, the Parliament can amend most of the provisions of the Constitution single-handedly, either by a simple majority or by a two-thirds majority.

4. Single Citizenship: The Indian Constitution provides for single citizenship of India which is common to all the people of various States and Union Territories.

5. Inequality of Representation in the Rajya Sabha: Our Constitution does not accord equal representation to all the States. It accords representation to the various States in the Rajya Sabha on the basis of their population. This means that the States with larger populations send more representatives in comparison to the States with smaller population. Further, the Rajya Sabha also has 12 members nominated by the President from amongst persons who have specialised in the field of art, literature, science and social services. This is a clear departure from the federal principle.

6. Existence of Union Territories: Another feature, which is a clear pointer to the unitary character of the Indian Constitution, is the existence of administrative units known as the Union Territories. These units are directly governed by the Central Government and do not enjoy any independent powers or autonomy.

THE UNION PARLIAMENT

The Union Legislature comprises the President and the two Houses of Parliament: the House of the People (the Lok Sabha) and the Council of States (the Rajya Sabha).

In a democracy, people are their own masters. Ours is a representative democracy where people exercise their sovereign power through their elected representatives. *The Parliament is the body of people's representatives who*

have supreme power of governance in a democratic country.

LOK SABHA

The Lok Sabha is the House of the People. The members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people of India.

Term

According to the Constitution the term of the Lok Sabha is five years. However, it can be dissolved before the expiry of its normal term by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

During the proclamation of an emergency the period of the Lok Sabha may be extended by Parliament for one year at a time. The new Lok Sabha must be elected within six months after the national emergency is lifted.

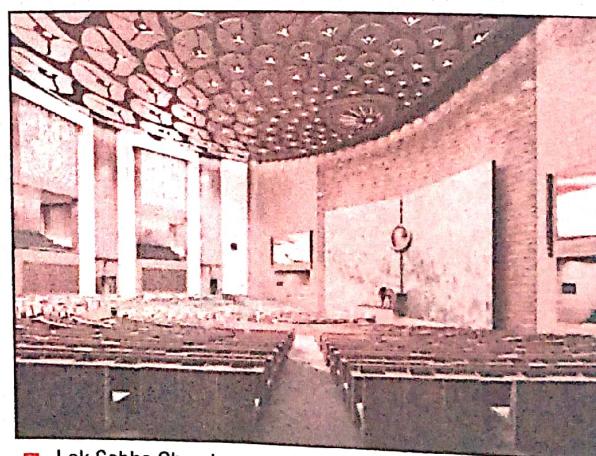
Composition

The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha, as provided by the Constitution is 550. Out of this,

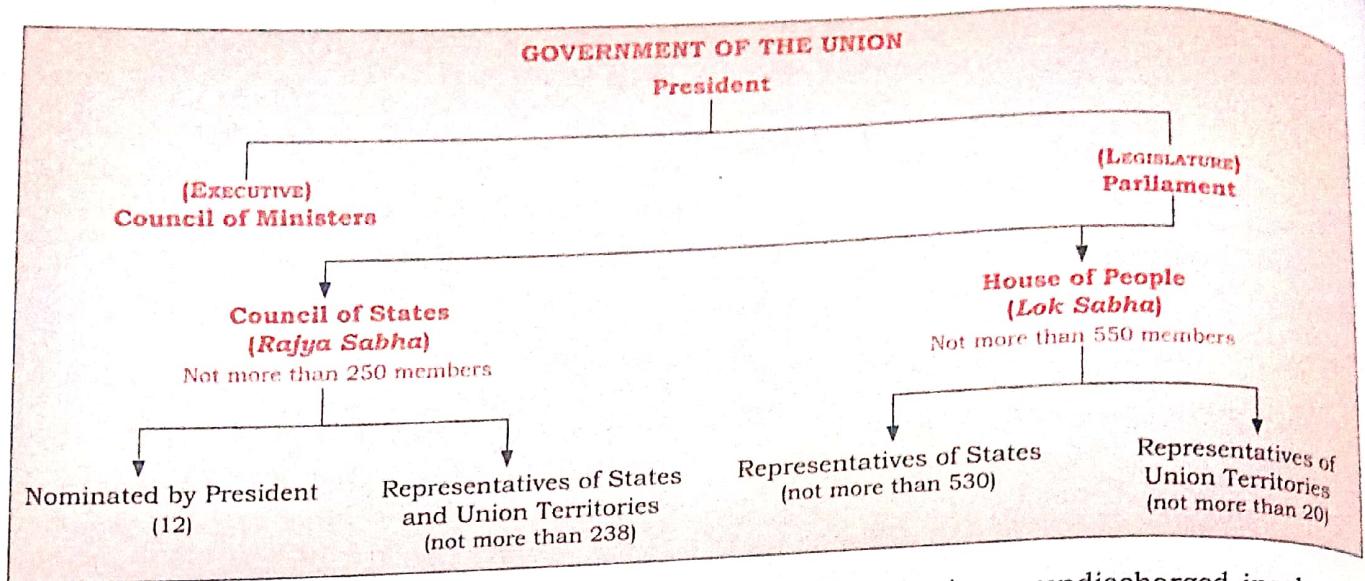
- (i) not more than 530 members shall represent the States;
- (ii) not more than 20 members shall represent the Union Territories;

The 104th Constitutional Amendment Act passed in January 2020 did away with the provision of nomination of Anglo-Indians to Lok Sabha and certain state assemblies. The reservation was provided for a period of 70 years which expired on January 25, 2020.

The number of members that can be elected to the Lok Sabha from a state depends on the population of that state. Uttar Pradesh is represented in the Lok Sabha by 80 members;



Lok Sabha Chamber



Maharashtra sends 48 members; Goa, Manipur and Meghalaya two each; and Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim one each. The Union Territory of Delhi sends seven members to the Lok Sabha.

Qualifications for Membership

Conditions needed for a person to be a member of the Lok Sabha are:

- (i) He/She should be an Indian citizen.
- (ii) He/She should be at least 25 years of age.
- (iii) He/She should have his name in the electoral rolls in some part of the country.
- (iv) He/She should not be an insolvent i.e., he/she should not be in debt and should have the ability to meet his/her financial commitments.
- (v) He/She should not hold any office of profit under the government.
- (vi) He/She should not be a proclaimed criminal.
- (vii) He/She should not be of unsound mind.

Disqualification of Membership

A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament—

- (i) if he/she holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State (other than an office exempted by Parliament by law) but not a Minister for the Union or for a State;
- (ii) if he/she is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent Court;

- (iii) if he/she is an undischarged insolvent;
- (iv) if he/she is not a citizen of India or has voluntarily acquired citizenship of a foreign State or is under an acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign power;
- (v) if he/she is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

If any question arises as to whether a member of either House of Parliament has become subject to any of the above disqualifications, the President's decision, in accordance with the opinion of the Election Commission, shall be final.

A penalty may be imposed upon a person who sits or votes in either House of Parliament knowing that he/she is not qualified or that he/she is disqualified for membership thereof.

Vacation of Seats

The seat of a member of either House of Parliament becomes vacant in the following situations:

- (i) If a member resigns his/her seat by writing to the Speaker or to the Chairman, as the case may be.
- (ii) If a member is, without permission of the House, absent from all meetings for a period of 60 days. In computing the said period, no account is taken of any period during which the House is prorogued or is adjourned for more than four consecutive days.
- (iii) If a member becomes subject to any of the disqualifications laid down in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament.

- (v) If a person is already a member of the State legislature and is elected to the Parliament, he/she has to vacate his/her seat in the State Legislature or vice versa.
- (vi) If a person is disqualified from being a member on grounds of Defection under the Anti-Defection Law. According to the Anti-Defection Law, when a member of a House gives up the membership of his/her party or votes against the direction given by the party to which he/she belongs, he/she shall be disqualified from being a member of the House, provided there is not a split in the party with at least one third of its members.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

Some formalities which the legislators have to observe in the Parliament as well as in State Legislatures are called Parliamentary Procedures. Some of them are as follows:

Sessions

A session is a formal period when both Houses of Parliament convene to conduct their business, which includes discussions and the passage of legislation. The President summons each House of Parliament. Each House shall meet at least twice a year and the interval between two consecutive sessions shall be less than six months. Normally there are three sessions in a year – the Budget session (February-May), the Monsoon session (July-August) and the Winter session (November-December).

Quorum

The quorum means the minimum number of members required to be present in the House to

enable it to transact its business. The quorum of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha is one-tenth of the total membership of each house. This means that the House cannot conduct its proceedings and pass Bills and resolutions without the presence of at least one-tenth of its total membership. The Speaker may adjourn the House or suspend the meeting until there is a requisite quorum.

Questions

A member of the House may ask the Government questions on matters of public interest. *The right of the members to ask questions from the government is known as interpellation.*

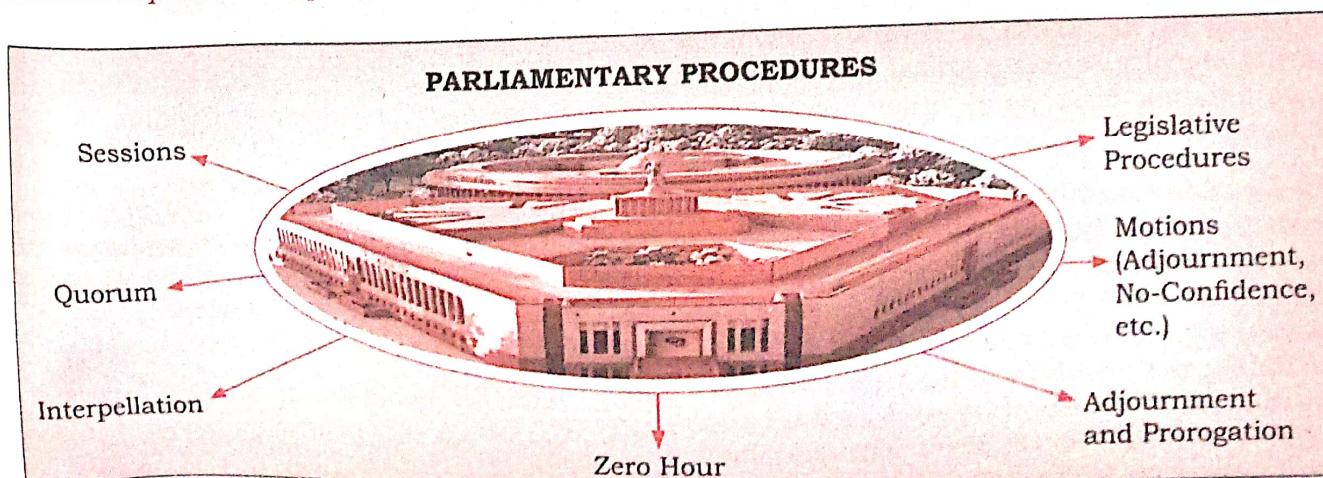
Question Hour

The first hour on every working day of the Lok Sabha is reserved for questions unless otherwise decided by the Speaker. This hour (which usually starts at 11 am) is known as the Question Hour. It is intended to keep the functioning of the government open to scrutiny by the members.

Types of Questions

All questions are addressed to the Chair and, if admitted, the Government is obliged to answer them. A member has to give ten days' notice for a question. There are three types of questions:

- (i) *Starred Questions* are those to which a member wishes to have an oral answer on the floor of the House. Such questions are indicated by an asterisk mark. Supplementary questions may be asked after replies to such questions are given by the Ministers.



- (ii) *Unstarred Questions* are questions to which answers are given in a written form. No supplementary questions can be asked thereon.
- (iii) *Short Notice Questions* relate to a matter of urgent importance. Such questions are asked with a notice shorter than of ten days. The Minister concerned has to be asked whether he can reply to the question at a short notice. It is for him to accept or not to accept short notice questions.

Zero Hour

The Zero Hour refers to the period which begins at 12 o'clock soon after the Question Hour and continues till the lunch break which begins at one o'clock. During the Zero Hour members raise all types of questions, without any permission or prior notice. The Presiding Officer controls the House, when faced with heated discussions, charges and counter-charges and constant interruptions by the members.

Motion

A Motion is a formal proposal made by a member stating that the House should take up some particular matter which is of public importance. With the help of the motion, the members draw attention of the Government to take suitable action on a particular matter.

Adjournment Motion

An Adjournment Motion means a proposal to lay aside all other business and take up a 'definite matter of urgent importance'. Such a Motion leads to the interruption of normal business of the House. Adjournment Motions are generally allowed on subjects such as: a railway accident resulting in the death of several persons; a daring dacoity, some natural calamity like a devastating flood or a tornado, communal tension, etc.

No-Confidence Motion

A No-Confidence Motion is a proposal expressing lack of confidence in the ruling government by the Opposition. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the entire Lok Sabha including the members of the Opposition. No-Confidence in the Government is moved by the Opposition. The House grants leave to move No-Confidence Motion only when it has the

The No-Confidence Motions of the Past
Since 1952, 28 different **No-Confidence Motions (NCM)** have been moved against different governments. Twenty-seven motions were defeated by the government in power, except one in 1979 when the then-Prime Minister Morarji Desai resigned before voting could begin.

Indira Gandhi faced the most no-confidence motions, 15 in all. None of them resulted in the fall of her government. Lal Bahadur Shastri faced the most per year of office, and Narasimha Rao won with the narrowest margin.

On July 26, 2024 the Lok Sabha accepted a no-confidence motion submitted by Gaurav Gogoi from the opposition alliance INDIA against the Narendra Modi government. It is interesting to note that thrice governments have fallen during **Vote of Confidence**.

support of at least 50 members. The Motion has to be taken up for discussion within 10 days from the day on which the leave is granted. On conclusion of the debate, the Speaker puts the Motion to vote. If the Motion is passed, the Government has to resign.

Confidence Motion is the reverse of the No-Confidence Motion. Sometimes a No-Confidence or Confidence Motion assumes much importance—even a single vote counts. In the 12th Lok Sabha, the government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee lost a Confidence Motion just by one vote. The government collapsed and general elections were held.

Adjournment and Prorogation of the House

Adjournment of the House means suspension of the sitting of the House by the Speaker.

Prorogation means termination of the session of Parliament.

The power of adjournment of the House rests with the Speaker or the Chairman as the case may be; and the power of prorogation of a session belongs to the President.

The House is also adjourned:

1. after the business for the day is over;
2. when the death of a sitting/ex-member of the House occurs;

- 3. when there is so much disorder in the House that it is difficult to conduct the business;
 - 4. for want of quorum; or
 - 5. as and when the Speaker finds it necessary.
- Adjournment *sine die* (Latin for 'without a date') is the suspension of a parliamentary session for an indefinite period, meaning there is no specific date set for it to resume. The Speaker has the power to declare an adjournment *sine die* of a House, which can happen when the session's business is concluded.

ANTI-DEFLECTION LAW

The Constitutional Act (52nd Amendment) 1985, popularly known as the *Anti-Defection Law* added a new schedule (10th Schedule) to the Constitution setting out certain provisions regarding vacating of seats and disqualification from membership of Parliament and State Legislature on grounds of defection. These conditions are:

- (i) An elected member of Parliament or a State Legislature, who has been elected as a candidate set up by a political party, would be disqualified on the ground of defection, if he/she voluntarily relinquishes his/her membership of such political party or votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction of such party;
- (ii) A nominated member of Parliament or a State Legislature who is a member of a political party at the time he/she takes his/her seat would be disqualified on the ground of defection if he/she voluntarily gives up his/her membership of the party or votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to the directions of the party.
- (iii) A nominated member of Parliament or a State Legislature who is not a member of a political party at the time of his/her nomination and who has not become a member of any political party before the expiry of six months from the date on which he/she takes his/her seat would be disqualified, if he/she joins any political party after the expiry of the said period of six months;
- (iv) An independent member of Parliament or a State Legislature will be disqualified if

he/she joins any political party after his/her elections;

- (v) No disqualification would be incurred where a member claims that he/she belongs to a group representing a faction arising from a split and the group consists of not less than one-third of the members of the legislative party. In case of a merger the members joining should not be less than two-thirds of the members of the legislative party concerned.

Exemption: A person who has been elected to the office of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairman or Deputy Chairman shall not be disqualified, if he/she, voluntarily gives up membership of the political party to which he/she belonged upon election to his/her office and rejoins his/her political party after he/she ceases to hold such an office.

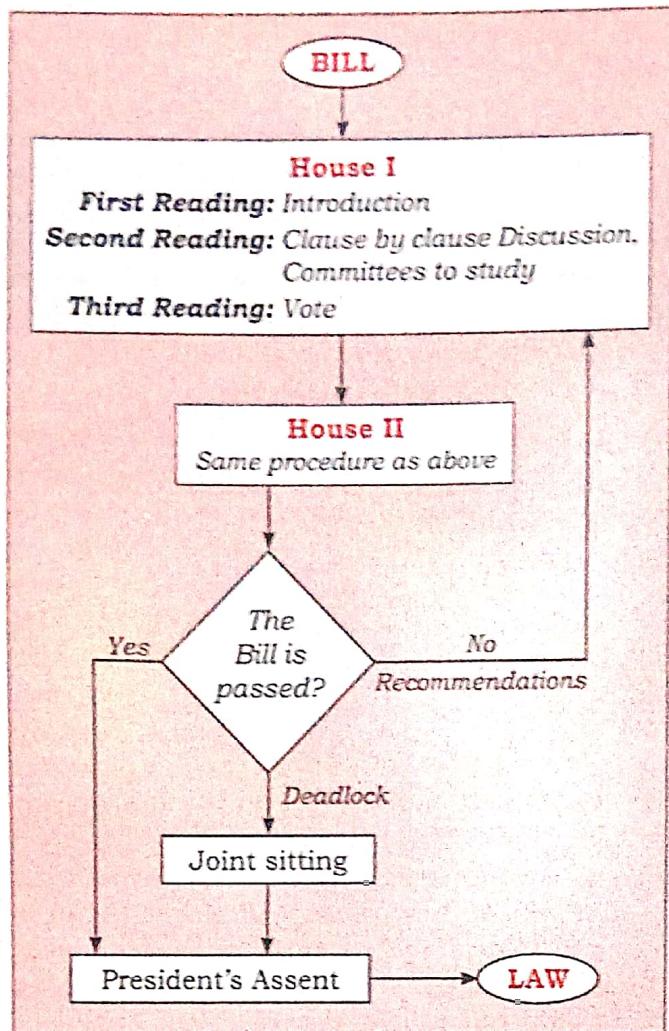
PASSING OF BILLS

The Parliament follows certain set procedures to make laws. *The proposal for a law is called a Bill.* All legislative proposals have to be brought in the form of Bills before Parliament. A Bill is a statute in draft and cannot become law unless it has received the approval of both the Houses of Parliament and the assent of the President of India. Bills are of two kinds—Ordinary Bills and Money bills.

Ordinary Bills

An Ordinary Bill may be introduced in any of the two Houses of the Parliament. It may be introduced by a Minister in the Government, or by a private member of the House. In the former case, it is called a Government Bill and in the latter case, it is known as a Private Member's Bill. *The process of considering a bill is called Reading.* A Bill goes through three such readings in each House.

First Reading: The first stage is the introduction of a Bill explaining its objectives. This is circulated in the House. A Minister, or any private member, who introduces the Bill gives a speech to explain the merits of his/her proposal. If the House is in favour of the introduction of the Bill, it goes to the next stage. *The introduction of the Bill with all its formalities is known as the First Reading of the Bill.*



Second Reading: At the Second Reading a detailed discussion of the Bill takes place. Here, the Bill may undergo changes. Members from different parties express their views on the Bill or make suggestions during this stage. Sometimes, a Bill is referred to a committee so that it may carefully study the Bill and make recommendations to the members of the House.

Third Reading: Finally at the Third Reading, the Bill, as a whole, is put to vote. If passed by simple majority, it is passed by the House.

The Second House: The bill is then sent to the Second House where the same procedure is followed.

Presidential Assent: Finally, if the Bill gets a majority and is passed in the other House of Parliament. It goes to the President for his assent. If the President does not give his assent, the bill goes back to the Houses of Parliament, asking them to reconsider it.

If the Bill is sent back to the President with or without any change a second time, the latter must give assent to it. After getting the President's assent, it becomes a Law or an Act.

Deadlock Between the two Houses: If there is a deadlock between the two Houses, the President calls a joint-sitting of the two Houses. The Bill is placed before the joint-sitting and the issue is decided by a majority vote. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over such joint-sittings. It must be noted that as the total number of members of the Lok Sabha are almost double that of the Rajya Sabha, in the joint-sitting the will of the Lok Sabha prevails.

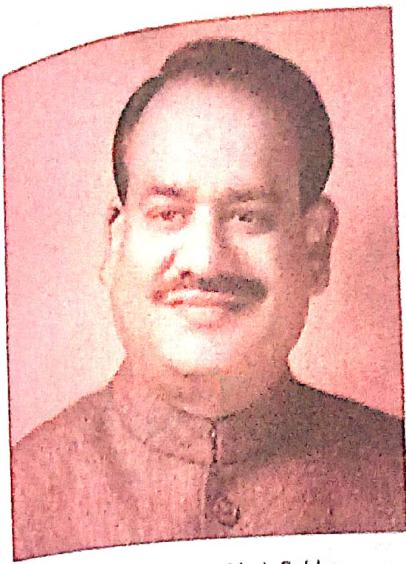
MONEY BILLS

As far as the Money Bills are concerned they first require the ruling of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as to whether it is a Money Bill or not. A Money Bill can be introduced in the Parliament only with the consent of the President of India.

As far as Money Bills are concerned, there is an important difference in the powers of the two Houses. A Money Bill can be introduced in the Lok Sabha only and not in the Rajya Sabha. However, when it is passed in the Lok Sabha it is sent to the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha cannot reject a Money Bill. It can give its suggestion within 14 days. In fact, the Rajya Sabha has to return the Bill within a period of 14 days with or without its recommendations. The Lok Sabha can reject all or any of its recommendations. The Lok Sabha thus, is the final authority so far as the Money Bills are concerned. If the Rajya Sabha does not return the Bill within 14 days, the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both the houses. Thereafter, the Bill is sent to the President for assent.

SPEAKER OF THE LOK SABHA

The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha who conducts the business of the House. He/She occupies a position of great authority and responsibility. He/She has wide powers to maintain discipline in the House. Once elected to the office, the speaker does not



■ Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha

have affiliation to any party and works in an impartial manner. He/She acts as the guardian of the rights and privileges of the members.

In the Table of Precedence he/she ranks higher than all Cabinet Ministers, other than the Prime Minister. With respect to the discharge of his/her powers and functions, the Speaker is not answerable to anyone except the House. No court of law can go into the merits of a ruling given by him/her.

Election

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is elected from among its own members soon after the newly elected House meets for the first time. When the House is dissolved the Speaker does not vacate his/her office. He/She remains in office till a new Speaker is elected by the new Lok Sabha in its first meeting. The Speaker is elected for a term of five years. He/She can seek re-election any number of times, if he/she is elected as the member of the Lok Sabha.

Removal

The Speaker may resign from his/her post on health or on other grounds by submitting a letter of resignation to the Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker can also be removed from his/her office by the Lok Sabha if the majority of all the then members pass a resolution to this effect.

However, no resolution for the removal of the Speaker shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

Deputy Speaker: The Constitution provides for the office of the Deputy Speaker, who performs the duties of the Speaker when the latter is absent or while the office of the Speaker is vacant. The Deputy Speaker is elected or is removed from office in the same way as the Speaker.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SPEAKER

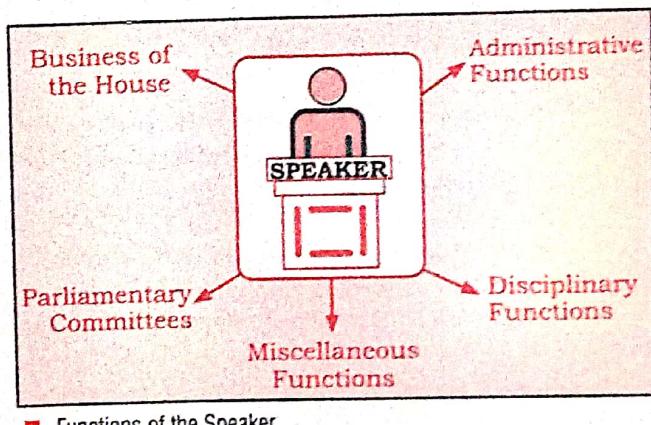
The role and functions of the Speaker may be categorised under the following heads:

The Business of the House

1. The Speaker presides over the meetings of the House. All speeches and remarks are addressed to the Speaker. He/She allots time for discussion.
2. The Speaker interprets the rules of procedure of the House. His/Her decision in all parliamentary matters is final.
3. All Bills passed by the House are signed by him/her before they are sent to the Rajya Sabha for its consideration or to the President for assent.
4. The Speaker decides the admissibility of all questions and resolutions. He/She decides the admissibility of a motion of adjournment.
5. He/She puts the issues to vote and announces the results. The Speaker does not vote in the House, except when there are equal votes on both sides, i.e., the Treasury Benches and the Opposition.
6. The Speaker decides whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not.

Administrative Functions

1. The Speaker receives all petitions and documents in the House.



2. He/She communicates the decisions of the House to the concerned authorities.
3. He/She regulates the admission of visitors and Press correspondents to the galleries of the House.

Disciplinary Functions

1. The Speaker maintains order in the House. When members become unruly, he/she may order them to withdraw. He may suspend a member, if he/she disregards the authority of the Chair. In case of grave disorder, he/she can adjourn the House.
2. In case the words used by a member are indecent or unparliamentary, the Speaker may order that such words be expunged from the proceedings of the House.
3. The Speaker decides whether there is a case for a matter relating to a breach of privilege or contempt of the House.
4. In regard to a question whether a Member of Lok Sabha stands disqualified under Anti-Defection Law, the question shall be referred to the decision of the Speaker. The

Constitution says that Speaker's decision shall be final and no court shall have any jurisdiction in this regard.

Parliamentary Committees

1. The Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairman of some of the Committees of the House, such as the Business Advisory Committee, and the Rules Committee.
2. He/She appoints Chairmen of all the Committees of the House.
3. He/She issues directions to the Chairmen in all matters relating to their working and the procedure to be followed.

Miscellaneous Functions

1. The Speaker presides over the joint sessions of both the Houses of Parliament.
2. In consultation with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, he/she nominates personnel for Parliamentary Delegations to various countries.
3. He/she presides over the Conference of Presiding Officers of legislative bodies in India.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE ➤➤➤

The Union Legislature comprises the President and the two Houses of Parliament — the *Lok Sabha* and the *Rajya Sabha*.

The Lok Sabha

- **Term:** 5 years unless dissolved earlier.
- **Composition:** not more than 550 members (530 elected from States and 20 from the UTs).
- **Qualifications for membership:** (i) a citizen of India; (ii) not less than 25 years of age; (iii) not holding any office of profit; (iv) not an insolvent; (v) not a proclaimed criminal; (vi) registered in the electoral rolls; and (vii) not of unsound mind.
- **Disqualification of membership:** (i) holding any office of profit under the Government of India or any State; (ii) having unsound mind; (iii) is an undischarged insolvent; (iv) not a citizen of India or has voluntarily acquired citizenship of a foreign country; or (v) is disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.
- **Sessions of Parliament:** are specific periods during which the Parliament meets to conduct its business, including law-making, discussions and oversight of the government.
- **Quorum:** the minimum number of members required to be present in the House to enable it to conduct its business. It is one-tenth for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- **Question Hour:** the first hour on every working day of the Lok Sabha which is reserved for its members to ask the government questions on matters of public interest.
- **Zero Hour:** the time immediately after Question Hour in Parliament that begins at 12 o'clock during which members raise matters of public importance without prior notice.
- **Motion:** a formal proposal made by a Member in Parliament seeking the House's opinion or decision on a matter of public importance.

- **Adjournment Motion:** a proposal meant to lay aside all other business and take up a definite matter of urgent importance.
- **No-Confidence Motion** a proposal expressing lack of confidence in the Council of Ministers by the Opposition.
- **Speaker**
Election: from among its members by Lok Sabha.
Removal: by a resolution of the Lok Sabha passed by a majority of all the then members of the House.
Role and Functions: Presiding officer—(i) regulates the proceedings of the House; (ii) certifies a bill as a Money Bill; (iii) maintains discipline in the House; (iv) puts issues to vote and announces the results; (v) does not vote in the House except when there is a tie; and (vi) presides over the Joint Sessions of Parliament.

EXERCISES

1. Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The Indian Federation — as articulated by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee B.R. Ambedkar, and the Constituent Assembly — emerged from European colonisation and was formed through the annexation of British provinces and princely states, albeit not by mutual agreement but by historical necessity. Therefore India has a federal system of government with a strong _____.

(a) Federation of States	(b) Supreme Court
(c) Parliament	(d) Unitary bias
2. A single Constitution is a feature of _____ form of government.

(a) Monarchical	(b) Federal
(c) Unitary	(d) None of the above
3. State governments are neither the agents of the Central government nor do they draw their authority from it. The _____ has an overriding position.

(a) Central government	(b) State government
(c) President	(d) Prime Minister
4. The Central and the State Governments draw their authority from

(a) The Constitution of India.	(b) The people of India.
(c) The Supreme Court	(d) The Judiciary.
5. The Constitution of India provides for a _____ tier government.

(a) single	(b) two
(c) three	(d) four
6. Which of the following constitute unitary features as provided in the Constitution of India?

P: A strong Centre
 Q: Adequate financial resources for the Centre and the States.
 R: A single Constitution for the Union and the States
 S: Division of legislative and administrative powers between the Union and the States.

(a) P and Q	(b) R and S
(c) P and R	(d) Q and S
7. The Union Legislature comprises which of the following?
 P: The President
 Q: The Lok Sabha
 R: The Rajya Sabha
 S: The two Houses of Parliament

- Q: No-confidence in the government is moved by the Opposition.
R: If the Motion is passed the government has to resign.
S: If the Motion is not passed, the Opposition party/parties take back the Motion.
(a) P and Q (b) Q and R (c) P and R (d) R and S

- 16.** When does the President of India address a joint session of Parliament?
(i) When there is a deadlock between the two Houses of Parliament over an Ordinary Bill.
(ii) At the beginning of the first session after each general election when the lower House meets.
(iii) At the beginning of first session of each year.
(a) (i) and (ii) (b) (i) and (iii) (c) (ii) and (iii) (d) (i), (ii) and (iii)
- 17.** The Lok Sabha may be adjourned in which of the following cases?
(i) After the day's business is over. (ii) For want of Quorum
(iii) In case of a natural calamity.
(a) (i) and (ii) (b) (ii) and (iii) (c) (i) and (iii) (d) (i), (ii) and (iii)
- 18.** How are the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha elected?
(a) By the people during general elections.
(b) By the members of the Lok Sabha from amongst themselves.
(c) By the members of the Rajya Sabha.
(d) By the members of the State Legislature.
- 19.** Identify the functions of the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
P: The Speaker votes on all issues, put to vote in the House.
Q: The Speaker presides over the joint sessions of both the houses of Parliament.
R: The Speaker's decision is final with regard to Anti-Defection Law.
S: The Speaker is the ex-officio Chairman of all the committees of the House.
(a) P and Q (b) P and S (c) Q and R (d) Q and S
- 20.** Who decides whether a bill is a Money Bill or not?
(a) President (b) Prime Minister
(c) Speaker of the Lok Sabha (d) Finance Minister
- 21.** Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements I and II.
(I) In a federal system of government, all the administrative powers are vested in the Central Government.
(II) The State Governments are neither the agents of the Central Government nor do they draw their authority from it.
(a) (I) is true, but (II) is false
(b) (I) is false, but (II) is true
(c) Both (I) and (II) are true, but (II) is not the correct explanation of (I)
(d) Both (I) and (II) are false.

II. Short Answer Questions

1. Name the three levels of government in a federal setup in India. Why is a federal setup important in India?

2. Article 1 of the Constitution delineates India as a 'Union of States', comprising regions that have been organised into States and as Union Territories. The existence of Union Territories is a departure from the federal form of Government. Give reasons.
3. A bicameral legislature strengthens which form of government? Give a reason to support your answer.
4. Name the law making body of the Union Government. Name its main constituents.
5. How are the members of the Lok Sabha elected? Who determines the salaries and allowances of the Members of Parliament?
6. What is the quorum to hold the meetings of the Lok Sabha? What happens when the quorum of a House is not met?
7. How are the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha elected? Who presides over the meetings of the Lok Sabha?
8. Name the sessions of the Lok Sabha. What is the maximum gap allowed between two parliamentary sessions?
9. If the President does not give his/her assent to a Bill, what happens?

III. Structured Questions

1. According to Dr Ambedkar, "Constitution can be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances. In normal times, it (the Constitution) is framed to work as a federal system. But in times of war, it is so designed as to make it work as though it were a unitary system." In this context answer the following questions:
 - (a) List any three federal features of government in India.
 - (b) List any two conditions when the Parliament can make laws on Subjects in the State List.
 - (c) Write short notes on any two unitary features of the government in India.
2. With reference to the powers and functions of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha state the following:
 - (a) Any three functions to regulate proceedings of the House.
 - (b) Any three administrative functions.
 - (c) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha occupies a position of great authority and responsibility. Give reasons to support this statement.
3. Read the excerpt given below and answer the questions that follow:

The Monsoon Session of Parliament begins next week. The dates were announced 45 days ago. Unusual. Normally, schedules for Parliament sessions are put out 18-20 days in advance.... For Narendra Modi and his team, there is no running away from answering 21 hours of questions in each House this session. A total of 42 hours. Question Hour, for 60 minutes a day, puts Union ministers in the hot seat. They are obliged to reply, either orally on the floor of the House (starred questions), or in writing (unstarred questions). On an average, nine questions are answered orally on the floor of Parliament every day, and over 400 questions receive written replies daily.

— Indian Express, July 18, 2025

- (a) What is a 'Session' of Parliament?
- (b) What do you understand by Question Hour?
- (c) Write short notes on the types of questions that are put up in Parliament.

4. This picture is a symbol of our democratic rule. In this context, answer the following questions:

- (a) How does the Parliament work to ensure that the people of India make laws for themselves?
- (b) How does the Parliament exercise control over the Executive?
- (c) When you grow up, you will have a chance to become an MP. Would you like to be an MP in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha? Why?



IV. Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

1. Why is the Lok Sabha often referred to as the 'House of People'? What does this title reflect on its role in Indian democracy?
2. How does the exclusive power given to Lok Sabha regarding the Money Bill highlight the principle of financial control by the people?
3. Do you think the Speaker of the Lok Sabha can remain completely impartial despite belonging to a political party? Discuss with reasons and examples.
4. How does the system of Question Hour and Zero Hour empower the opposition in the Lok Sabha?
5. Do you think Members of Parliament should be fined for unruly scenes, frequent adjournments and disruptions in the Lok Sabha leading to loss of valuable working hours and wastage of public money? Give your views and suggestions.
6. Do you think there should be limit on the number of times a person can be elected as Member of Parliament? Give your views with reasons.

