

**LOK SABHA**

**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**AGENDA**

**ENHANCING GOVERNANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN LADAKH**

(Demands for statehood, tribal status under the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution and protection of the region's fragile ecology)

**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dear Delegates,

Congratulations on getting the opportunity to participate in JECRC Model United Nations 2024. To the veterans of MUN, we promise you a very enriching debate that you’ve never experienced before and to the newcomers, we are excited to be a part of your maiden voyage. As the world looks to come out of a rather ‘depression’ ridden economic environment and the world talks about a long standing ‘power shift’ to the east happening soon, the importance of our generation being ‘ready enough’ to accept various challenges that lie ahead of us can hardly be overstated.

What we desire from the delegates is not how experienced or articulate they are. Rather, we want to see how she/he can respect disparities and differences of opinion, work around these, while extending their own policy so that it encompasses more of the others without compromising their own stand, thereby reaching an unanimously acceptable practical solution. The following pages intend to guide you with the nuances of the agenda as well as the committee.

The Guide chronologically touches upon all the different aspects that are relevant and will lead to fruitful debate in the committee. It will provide you with a bird’s eye view of the gist of the agenda. However, it must be noted that the background guide only contains certain basic information which may form the basis for the debate and your research. You are the representative of your allotted portfolio, and it is our hope that you put in wholehearted efforts to research and comprehensively grasp all important facets of the diverse agenda. All the delegates should be prepared well in order to make the committee’s direction and debate productive. After all, only then will you truly be able to represent your country in the best possible way.

Kindly note, that unlike most conventional/unconventional committees you have attended, this committee shall have “substantive” intervention by the Executive Board.

We encourage you to go beyond this background guide and delve into the extremities of the agenda to further enhance your knowledge of a burning issue.

Yours Sincerely,

Aditya Kumar Upadhyay | Speaker | E-mail:[adityakumar2398@yahoo.com](mailto:adityakumar2398@yahoo.com)

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**Introduction to the committee**

The Lok Sabha is India's lower house of Parliament. It is made up of elected Members of Parliament (MPs) from various constituencies across the country.

The Lok Saba has significant legislative powers and plays an important role in India's democratic governance. It has the power to pass bills and enact laws that shape the country's policies and regulations.

The Lok Saba serves as a forum for elected representatives to express the concerns, aspirations, and interests of the Indian people through debates, discussions, and deliberations. The Lok Sabha is governed by a direct election system in which citizens exercise their right to vote and elect representatives to this house. These elected members take part in parliamentary proceedings, and debates, and contribute to decision-making.

The agenda of the Lok Sabha includes the introduction and consideration of bills, discussions on matters of national importance, and question sessions to hold the government accountable. The Lok Sabha ensures that the nation's policies and laws reflect the needs and aspirations of its citizens by representing the diverse voices and interests of the Indian population.

The Lok Sabha, as the primary legislative body, serves as a forum for democratic decision-making, policy formulation, and representation of people's interests. It is an important pillar of India's parliamentary democracy, in which elected representatives work to address societal challenges, enact laws, and shape the nation's future. The deliberations and legislative actions of the Lok Sabha contribute to India's democratic fabric and play an important role in advancing the country's governance and development.

**Role of a parliamentarian**

Members of Parliament represent the hopes and aspirations of the people of India. They play a significant part in furthering the social and economic welfare of Indian citizens. Parliamentary discussions have a substantial impact on a wide range of subjects such as health, education, agriculture, internal security, and infrastructure.

As representatives of citizens, MPs have three key roles. They debate and pass laws that govern the country. They oversee the work of the government to ensure effective governance. They ensure efficient allocation of public resources through the Union Budget.

Both Houses of Parliament have detailed Rules of Procedure which regulate their functioning. It is essential that MPs understand how to navigate these Rules in order to make effective interventions.

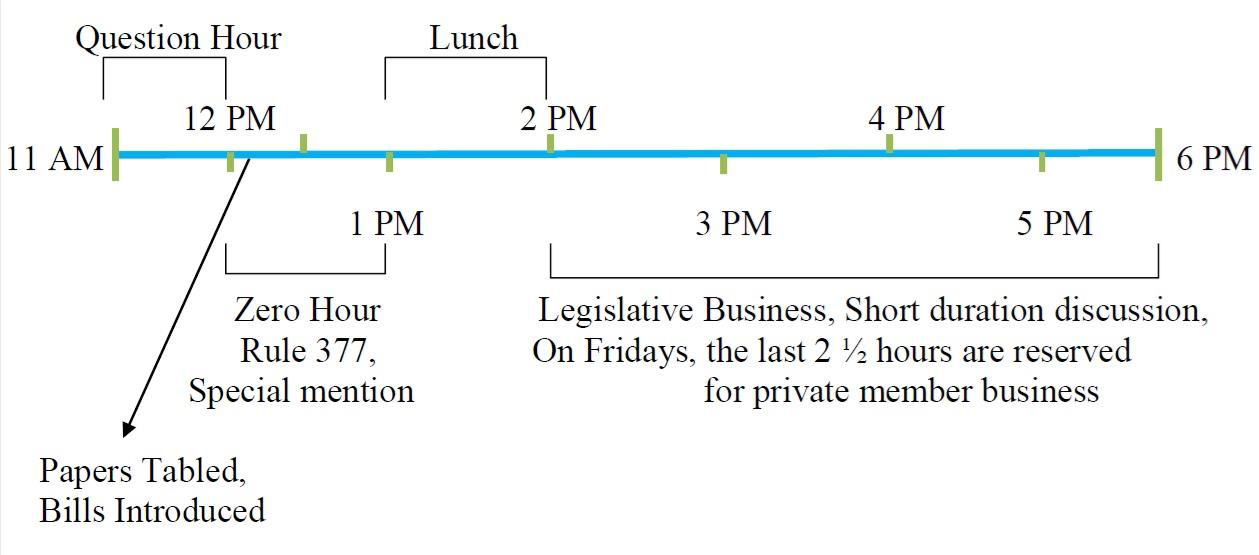
The purpose of this primer is to assist newly elected Lok Sabha MPs in understanding the Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha. This document is intended to enable them to participate constructively in the proceedings of the House. It has been organised in a manner that highlights the opportunities for participation in Lok Sabha on a typical day. Each section provides an overview of the Rules and explains the procedural requirements that need to be followed.

Lok Sabha begins work at 11 am and is ordinarily scheduled to work till 6 pm, with a lunch break from 1 pm to 2 pm. If the House decides, it can work through the lunch break or work beyond 6 pm. Lok Sabha’s proceedings are presided over by the Speaker of the House. In the Speaker’s absence, the Deputy Speaker or a member from the panel of Chairpersons preside over the House.

An MP may participate in the House in broadly two ways. In certain proceedings, MPs may speak on behalf of their parties and may be subject to the party whip. This includes participation in discussions on government Bills, budgets etc., in which the party leadership decides the names of the MPs who would speak. In certain other proceedings, such as Question Hour and some Zero Hour interventions, MPs act independent of their party affiliation.

The time allocated for all business of the House is regulated by a committee called the Business Advisory Committee. It is chaired by the Speaker and consists of leaders of political parties in the House. It decides the business that would be taken up in the week and allocates time for each debate. Based on the nature of the intervention, the Speaker either allocates time to an individual MP or distributes the time between the parties based on their strength in the House. The party leadership then determines who will participate on its behalf in the proceedings.

**A day in Parliament**



**Rules of procedure**

In a Parliamentary democracy, the government is collectively responsible to the Parliament for its actions. Therefore, MPs have several devices at their disposal to scrutinise the work of the government. These include asking questions on the government’s policies and debating on national issues.

This section provides an overview of the various ways in which MPs can hold the government accountable.

An MP can raise issues in the House either on behalf of their political party or independently. In certain interventions, an MP can directly submit his name to the Speaker for consideration. In other interventions, the party leadership decides which MPs will speak on the issue and communicates the names of such MPs to the Speaker.

**Question Hour**

Lok Sabha starts every day with Question Hour. Members use it to hold the government accountable for its policies and actions. During this Hour, an MP can ask a Minister any question

What are the different types of questions?

There are three different types of questions: starred, unstarred and short notice questions.

Starred Question: A starred question is asked by an MP and answered orally by the Minister-in-charge. Each MP is allowed to ask one starred question per day. Starred questions are submitted in advance (15 days) and only 20 questions are picked (through ballot) for oral answer on a day.

The questioning MP can thereafter ask up to two supplementary questions. The Speaker may then permit other MPs to ask supplementary questions.

**Preparing for a starred question:** Starred questions are better suited to inquire about the government’s views on issues and its policy inclination. The MP can then pose supplementary questions, and other MPs may follow them. Supplementary questions can be used to get answers on issues that the government may not have explained in its reply to the question. The list of questions is available five days in advance. This gives MPs the opportunity to prepare for supplementary questions. Typically, 5-6 questions are answered in the one hour allocated for Question Hour. Therefore, it may be preferable to focus on the first few questions while preparing supplementary.

**Unstarred question:** An unstarred question receives a written reply from the Ministry. These are also submitted 15 days in advance. A maximum of 230 unstarred questions are picked for a day.

An MP may submit a maximum of five questions per day. Of the questions listed against his name, one may be a starred question.

**Short notice question:** These relate to a matter of urgent public importance. They can be asked with less than 10 days’ notice, with reasons for the short notice. Like starred questions they are answered orally followed by supplementary questions. These are admitted at the discretion of the Speaker, with the consent of the concerned Minister. This is a rarely used device; such questions have not been admitted even once in the last 10 years.

**Zero Hour**

The Hour immediately following the Question Hour is popularly known as the Zero Hour. This period is usually used to raise matters that are urgent and cannot wait for the notice period required under other procedures.

For raising matters during the Zero Hour, MPs must give notice before 10 am to the Speaker on the day of the sitting. The notice must state the subject they wish to raise in the House. The Speaker decides whether to allow the matter to be raised. Short Notice Questions too are taken up during the Zero Hour.

Laying of Papers: At the beginning of Zero Hour, various papers such as Annual Reports of Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings, audit reports by the CAG, reports of Parliamentary Committees, and government notifications are laid on the table of the House.

**Private Member Resolutions**

Any MP, who is not a Minister, may move a resolution in the form of a recommendation, declaration of opinion, approval or disapproval of an act or policy of the government, or to bring an important matter to the attention of the government. These are known as Private Member Resolutions. MPs are required to give a two- day notice to move a Private Member Resolution. The last two and a half hours of sitting on Fridays alternate between Private Member Resolutions and Private Member Bills.

**Short Duration Discussion (Rule 193)**

Under this provision, an MP can raise a discussion on a matter of urgent public importance. The MP will need to give notice to the Speaker specifying the matter to be raised and the reasons for doing so. The MP raises the matter and this is followed by other MPs discussing the issue. The Minister-in-charge responds at the end of the discussion. Some of the major issues discussed in the 16th Lok Sabha were the agrarian crisis in the country, inflation, and various natural calamities.

**Adjournment Motions**

This procedure is available to draw the attention of the government and criticise its decision in an urgent matter for which a motion or resolution, with notice, would be too late. Notice of an adjournment motion is required to be given before 10 am on the day on which the motion is proposed.

If the adjournment motion is accepted, the House adjourns after voting. The adoption of an adjournment motion is seen as a censure of the government, although there is no compulsion on the government to resign. In the 16th Lok Sabha, one adjournment motion was admitted.

**No Confidence Motion**

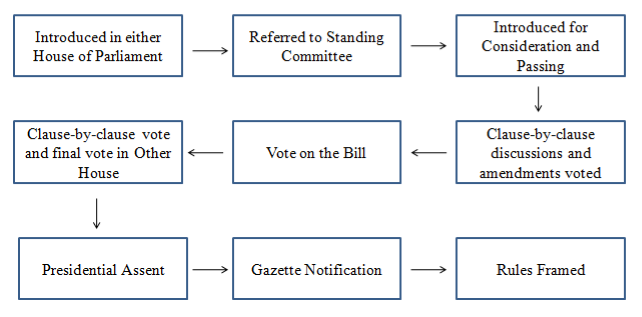
A motion of no confidence can be moved against the Council of Ministers. Notice for such a motion has to be given before 10 am on the day of sitting. A no confidence motion is moved by an MP if according to him/her the government’s activities have not been satisfactory and resignation of the government is demanded. The Speaker will ask MPs who support the motion to rise at their seats, and will fix a time for a motion if at least 50 MPs do so. At the end of such a debate the motion is put to vote. If the motion is adopted, the government has to resign.

**Legislation**

For a Bill to be become an Act, it has to be passed by each House of Parliament and receive the assent of the President. Parliament has the power to pass laws relating to subjects under the Union List (such as defence or citizenship) or Concurrent List (such as criminal procedures or family laws) of the Constitution. Government Bills are introduced by Ministers and Private Member Bills by any other MP. While the procedure to introduce and pass these Bills is the same, only 14 Private Members Bills have ever been passed.

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| **Types of Bills** | **Subject** | **Introduction** | **Passage** |
| Ordinary Bills | Anything under the union list or the concurrent list. | Introduced in either House. | Simple majority in each  House. |
| Money Bills | Involving taxation,  borrowing, govt funding, payment, or withdrawal of money from the Consolidated or Contingency Funds of India | Introduced only in Lok Sabha | Simple Majority in Lok Sabha.  Rajya Sabha can recommend changes, but LS has the right to reject them,  RS must return or pass a Bill within 14 days, or it is deemed passed.  Introduced |
| Constitutional Amendment Bills | Amends the provisions of the Constitution. | Introduced in either House. | Simple majority of total membership and two-third majority of the MPs present and voting.  Some Bills also need to be ratified by half the state legislatures in the country. |

**Steps Leading to the enactment of law**



**Ground Rules**

• We agree to disagree without being disrespectful.

* Delegates are encouraged to state so if they disagree. However, they should do so in a respectful way, without attacking the motives or the characters of another delegate, but rather for substantive reasons.
* Explain disagreement.
* All delegates should be ready to back the reasons why they do not agree with a proposal by substantive arguments.
* Only one person speaks at the time.
* No grandstanding.
* Delegates are discouraged from making overly long and repetitive statements, which hinder other delegates from participating fully.
* The chairperson manages the communication process between delegates; they are responsible for monitoring these ground rules.
* There is no final agreement until agreement is reached on everything.
* Delegates can speak to the media only about their own views, and not about the views of others.
* Group decisions are made through “consensus.”
* This means that all participants can “live with” the package; they might oppose certain aspects, but not enough to warrant opposition to the whole package.
* Additional ground rules can be added by consensus. In this stage, delegates are encouraged and expected to give their comments and to add ground rules of communication for themselves. The final goal of this step is to agree on ground rules for communication that will govern the further discussions.

**MUN Glossary & Terms**

**Dias:** The collective name of the chairs or the group of people leading the committee.

**Placard:** The cardboard or paper sign with the portfolio name written on it. Placards are used to identify presence, vote, and signal to the chair.

**Out of order**: Actions that are not allowed according to the Rules of Procedure.

**Study guide:** A Background Guide with information about the topics to be discussed at a MUN conference.

**Rules of procedure (RoP):** The rules which dictate how to run a Model United Nations committee.

**Decorum:** A call to order. The chair will call for decorum if delegates get too loud or disrespectful. When the chair called “Decorum delegates” it is best to be quiet and go back to your seat.

**Motion:** How you ask for something in MUN in the official request form. You can motion for many different actions to guide the debate forward in a specific way. Some examples of motions are motions for different types of caucuses (discussion), to move to vote or end the committee session altogether.

**Second:** A second delegate agreeing with a motion that has been proposed. Most motions require a second to be voted on by the entire committee. If there are no seconds a motion automatically fails.

**Objection:** After a motion gets a second, the Dias asks if there are objections. At least one delegate needs to object for the motion to proceed to a vote by the entire committee. If there is no objection the motion automatically passes.

**Simple majority:** A vote that requires at least one over 50% of the vote to pass. Most procedural votes require a simple majority.

**On the floor:** When a motion, working paper, or draft bill/resolution is open to discussion and voting. (The term floor is a legislative term meaning the part of a legislative hall where debate and other business is conducted.)

**Blocs:** Groups of delegates who agree on certain principles. These blocs will work together to write draft resolutions, which they later introduce and vote on. Blocs can be formed based on any common interest. Some blocs are formed around regional, cultural, or ideological interests but there are many more. Choosing who is in your bloc should be done on a case-by-case basis depending on the topic.

**Flow:** The notetaking, or shorthand, MUNers use to keep track of all the ideas, policies and arguments said in other delegate’s speeches. Flow can be taken on paper or computer. Flow is used by both chairs and delegates.

**“Honourable speaker, distinguished parliamentarians”**: This is how Lok Sabha speeches usually start. While it is customary to start a speech with these words it is not the end of the world if you don’t say them.

**Points & Inquiries**

**Point of parliamentary inquiry:** Also called a ‘Point of Inquiry’. A question from a delegate to the chair about the Rules of Procedure (RoP) or anything else they don’t understand in the committee.

**Point of information**: When a delegate asks a question of another delegate. These usually take place after a delegate completes a speech on the Speaker’s List. Some conferences do not have Points of Information. Consult each conference rules to understand how exactly they work.

**Follow-Ups:** A request to ask a second question after having already asked one as a point of information.

**Point of personal privilege:** Can be called for when a delegate feels hindered by something outside of the debate, which is not covered by the RoP. Examples can be going to the bathroom, room temperature and inability to hear another speaker.

**Point of order:** Called by a delegate on another delegate, or on the chair, when the Rules of Procedure are not being followed. The specifics of a Point of Order vary between conferences and the specific RoP should be consulted.

**Right of reply:** When a delegate feels their country was insulted during another delegates speech, the can ask for Right of Reply. If approved by the chair, the insulted delegate gets a certain amount of time to respond to the insult. There is no Right of Reply to a Right of Reply.

**About the agenda**

**ENHANCING GOVERNANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN LADAKH**

(Demands for statehood, tribal status under the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution and protection of the region's fragile ecology)

**Introduction**

Ladakh, a region of strategic and cultural significance nestled in the northernmost part of India, has been a focal point of discussions and aspirations regarding its administrative status, indigenous rights, and environmental conservation. This introduction sets the stage for understanding the intertwined demands for statehood, tribal status under the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution, and the imperative need to protect Ladakh's fragile ecology.

Ladakh has a rich history steeped in Tibetan Buddhist heritage, ancient trade routes, and a vibrant cultural tapestry that has shaped its identity over centuries. The region's geostrategic importance, particularly along the borders with China and Pakistan, adds complexity to its administrative and political landscape.

In recent years, calls for granting Ladakh full statehood status have gained traction. Advocates argue that statehood would provide greater autonomy in governance, decision-making authority on local issues, and a platform for preserving Ladakh's unique cultural heritage while fostering economic development and political empowerment.

**Statehood Demand**

The demand for statehood in Ladakh reflects aspirations for greater self-governance, cultural preservation, economic development, and political empowerment within the context of India's federal structure and constitutional principles. This demand continues to shape public discourse and policy debates regarding Ladakh's administrative status and future trajectory.

**Rationale for Statehood –**

1. **Autonomy and Governance:**
   * Decision-Making Authority: Statehood would grant Ladakh greater autonomy in decision-making on local issues, governance structures, and development priorities. This includes the ability to enact laws and policies that are tailored to the region's specific needs and challenges.
   * Administrative Efficiency: A separate state status could lead to more streamlined administrative processes, improved coordination between different government departments, and better utilization of resources for effective governance.
2. **Representation and Empowerment:**
   * Political Representation: Statehood would enable Ladakh to have its own legislative assembly and government, allowing for direct representation of local leaders who understand the region's complexities and can advocate for its interests at the state and national levels.
   * Empowerment of Indigenous Communities: Statehood is seen as a means to empower indigenous communities in Ladakh, including Tibetan Buddhists and other ethnic groups, by giving them a stronger voice in decision-making processes that affect their land rights, cultural heritage, and socio-economic well-being.
3. **Cultural and Identity Preservation:**
   * Cultural Heritage: Many supporters of statehood emphasize the importance of preserving Ladakh's unique cultural identity, including its rich heritage of Tibetan Buddhism, traditional arts, language, and customs. Statehood could provide a platform for safeguarding and promoting these cultural assets.
   * Language and Education: Statehood could facilitate the promotion and preservation of local languages, dialects, and educational initiatives that are aligned with Ladakh's cultural ethos and historical heritage.
4. **Economic Development and Opportunities:**
   * Investment and Infrastructure: Statehood could attract more investments in sectors such as tourism, infrastructure development, renewable energy, and agriculture, leading to economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards for residents.
   * Resource Allocation: As a state, Ladakh would have greater control over the allocation of funds, resources, and development projects, allowing for targeted initiatives that address the region's specific socio-economic challenges and opportunities.
5. **Empowerment of Local Institutions:**
   * Local Governance Structures: Statehood would empower local government institutions, councils, and authorities to take proactive measures for sustainable development, environmental conservation, disaster management, and community welfare.
   * Capacity Building: Statehood could lead to enhanced capacity building efforts, including training programs for civil servants, local leaders, and community stakeholders, to strengthen governance capabilities and service delivery mechanisms.

**Tribal Status under Sixth Schedule**

* The demand for granting Ladakh tribal status under the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution reflects the aspirations of indigenous communities and their advocates for greater recognition, protection, and empowerment. This section delves into the rationale, implications, and considerations surrounding this demand.
* Ladakh is home to diverse indigenous communities, including Tibetan Buddhists, Baltis, Brokpas, and Changpas, each with their unique cultural practices, languages, and traditional livelihoods. The demand for tribal status stems from the need to safeguard and promote the rights, identities, and socio-economic interests of these communities within the framework of constitutional provisions.
* The sixth schedule of the Indian constitution provides special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in certain states, aiming to protect tribal rights, preserve indigenous cultures, and promote their socio-economic development. Granting Ladakh tribal status under this schedule would entail tailored governance mechanisms and safeguards for indigenous communities.
* **Implications and Benefits:**
  + **Autonomy:** Tribal status would confer greater autonomy to Ladakh's indigenous communities in managing their local affairs, land use, natural resources, and cultural institutions.
  + **Resource Allocation:** It could lead to dedicated funding, resources, and development programs targeted at tribal areas, addressing socio-economic disparities and enhancing livelihood opportunities.
  + **Cultural Preservation:** The status would facilitate the preservation and promotion of indigenous languages, traditions, customary laws, and cultural heritage, strengthening community identity and resilience.
  + **Political Representation:** Tribal councils or bodies could be established to ensure meaningful representation and participation of indigenous leaders in decision-making processes affecting their communities.

**Challenges and Considerations:**

Granting tribal status under the sixth schedule of the Indian constitution to Ladakh entails several challenges and considerations that need to be carefully navigated to ensure effective implementation and positive outcomes. Here are the key challenges and considerations:

**Inclusivity:**

Inclusivity is a crucial aspect that needs to be prioritized when considering granting tribal status under the sixth schedule to Ladakh.

1. **Diverse Communities:** Ladakh is home to a diverse range of communities, including indigenous tribes such as Tibetan Buddhists, Baltis, Brokpas, Changpas, as well as non-tribal populations and migrants from other regions. Inclusivity requires recognizing and respecting the rights, identities, and aspirations of all communities.
2. **Representation and Participation:**
   * Ensuring representation of diverse communities in governance structures, including tribal councils and local bodies, is essential. This includes providing opportunities for meaningful participation in decision-making processes related to tribal status, development projects, and resource allocation.
   * Facilitating dialogue, consultation, and engagement with community leaders, civil society organizations, and experts from different backgrounds fosters inclusive decision-making and policy formulation.
3. **Equity and Social Justice:**
   * Promoting equity and social justice requires addressing historical inequalities, discrimination, and marginalization faced by certain communities. Policies and programs under tribal status should prioritize addressing socio-economic disparities, promoting inclusive development, and safeguarding vulnerable populations.
   * Implementing measures to protect the rights of marginalized groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities, ensures inclusivity in all aspects of governance and development initiatives.
4. **Cultural Diversity and Heritage:**
   * Recognizing and celebrating the cultural diversity of Ladakh, including indigenous traditions, languages, arts, and customs, is integral to inclusivity. Policies should promote cultural preservation, heritage conservation, and the revitalization of traditional knowledge systems.
   * Supporting initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue, exchange, and collaboration among diverse communities fosters mutual respect, understanding, and social cohesion.
5. **Education and Awareness:**
   * Promoting education, awareness, and capacity building among communities about their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities under tribal status enhances inclusivity. Providing access to quality education, vocational training, and skill development programs empowers individuals and communities.
   * Conducting outreach programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns on topics such as governance, legal rights, environmental conservation, and health promotes informed decision-making and active citizenship.
6. **Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation:**
   * Addressing conflicts, grievances, and disputes within and between communities through fair and transparent mechanisms promotes social harmony and reconciliation. Encouraging dialogue, mediation, and conflict resolution processes based on principles of justice and equity is crucial.

**Legal and Administrative Framework**

Developing a robust legal and administrative framework is essential for effectively implementing tribal status under the sixth schedule in Ladakh.

1. **Constitutional Provisions:**
   * Understanding the constitutional provisions related to tribal areas and the sixth schedule is fundamental. This includes studying relevant articles, schedules, and provisions in the Indian constitution that govern tribal rights, governance structures, and special provisions for tribal areas.
2. **Legislative Framework:**
   * Developing or amending existing legislation to accommodate tribal status under the sixth schedule requires careful consideration. This may involve drafting new laws, rules, and regulations that outline the powers, functions, and responsibilities of tribal councils, administrative bodies, and local institutions.
3. **Jurisdictional Clarity:**
   * Clarifying jurisdictional boundaries and authorities between tribal councils, local government bodies, and state/national authorities is essential. Defining the scope of decision-making powers, resource management, land use regulations, and law enforcement ensures effective governance and avoids conflicts.
4. **Administrative Structures:**
   * Establishing administrative structures and institutions to support tribal governance, including tribal councils, executive bodies, judicial mechanisms, and regulatory agencies, is crucial. This includes defining roles, responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms for these institutions.
5. **Resource Allocation and Management:**
   * Developing mechanisms for equitable resource allocation and management within tribal areas is critical. This involves identifying sources of funding, revenue generation models, budget allocation processes, and transparent financial management practices.
6. **Legal Rights and Protections:**
   * Ensuring legal rights, protections, and safeguards for tribal communities under tribal status is paramount. This includes protecting land rights, natural resource usage, customary laws, cultural heritage, and traditional practices through legal mechanisms and provisions.
7. **Capacity Building and Training:**
   * Conducting capacity building programs, training sessions, and awareness campaigns for tribal leaders, administrators, and community members enhances the effectiveness of tribal governance. This includes imparting knowledge on governance principles, legal frameworks, conflict resolution, and sustainable development practices.
8. **Coordination and Collaboration:**
   * Fostering coordination, collaboration, and partnerships between tribal councils, government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders promotes effective implementation of tribal status provisions. Developing platforms for dialogue, information sharing, and joint initiatives enhances governance outcomes.
9. **Review and Evaluation Mechanisms:**
   * Implementing mechanisms for regular review, evaluation, and feedback on tribal status implementation ensures accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement. Conducting periodic assessments, impact evaluations, and stakeholder consultations informs policy adjustments and decision-making processes.

**Resource allocation and development**

Resource allocation and development priorities under tribal status in Ladakh are crucial for fostering inclusive and sustainable growth. It is essential to ensure equitable distribution of resources, prioritize targeted initiatives such as infrastructure development, livelihood opportunities, and education, and implement sustainable natural resource management practices. Additionally, investing in healthcare services, cultural preservation efforts, and community empowerment programs plays a vital role in enhancing the well-being and resilience of tribal communities. Continuous monitoring and evaluation are necessary for accountability and to guide informed decision-making, leading to positive outcomes and lasting benefits for Ladakh's indigenous populations.

**Cultural preservation**

Cultural preservation and identity are integral aspects of granting tribal status under the sixth schedule in Ladakh. It is imperative to prioritize initiatives that safeguard and promote the rich cultural heritage, languages, traditional practices, and customs of indigenous communities. This includes supporting efforts for language revitalization, heritage conservation, traditional arts, and cultural events that strengthen community identity and resilience. Fostering pride in cultural heritage not only preserves unique traditions but also contributes to social cohesion, intergenerational transmission of knowledge, and sustainable development rooted in local values and aspirations.

**Empowerment of Local Institutions**

Empowering local institutions is essential for effective governance and sustainable development under tribal status in Ladakh. This involves strengthening tribal councils, community-based organizations, and traditional governance structures to play proactive roles in decision-making, resource management, and service delivery. Empowered institutions can facilitate participatory development processes, promote transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to community needs, and foster inclusive and equitable development outcomes. Capacity building, training, and support for local leaders and institutions are key strategies to enhance their effectiveness, resilience, and long-term impact on improving the well-being of tribal communities.

**PROOFS/EVIDENCE IN COMMITTEE**

1. Government Reports (Each ministry publishes its own reports including External Affairs Ministry)
2. Government Websites
3. Government run News channels i.e. RSTV, LSTV, DD News
4. Standing Committee Reports
5. RTI Proofs
6. PTI and PIB

**\* We encourage you to go beyond this background guide and delve into the extremities of the agenda to further enhance your knowledge of a burning issue.**

**\*We’ll be following the existing criminal laws i.e. Indian Penal Code 1860 and CrPC 1973, considering the very fact that the new laws are yet not notified in the official gazette.**