

Member of the Legislative Assembly (India)

A ***Member of Legislative Assembly*** (**MLA**) is a representative elected by the voters of an electoral district (constituency) to the legislature of the State government in the Indian system of government. Each state has between seven and nine MLAs for every Member of Parliament(MP) that it has in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of India's bicameral parliament. There are also members in two unicameral legislatures in Union Territories: the Delhi Legislative Assembly and Puducherry Legislative Assembly.

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State legislature

In states where there are two houses there is a Legislative Council and a Legislative Assembly. In such a case, the Legislative Council is the Upper House, while Legislative Assembly is the Lower House of the State Legislature.

The Governor shall not be a member of the Legislature or Parliament, shall not hold any office of profit, and shall be entitled to emoluments and allowances. (Article 158 of Indian constitution).

The Legislative Assembly consists of not more than 500 members and not fewer than 60. The biggest state, Uttar Pradesh, has 403 members in its Assembly. States which have small populations and are small in size have a provision for having an even lesser number of members in the Legislative Assembly. Puducherry has 30 members. Mizoram and Goa have only 40 members each. Sikkim has 32. All members of the Legislative Assembly are elected on the basis of adult franchise and one member is elected from one constituency. Just as the President has the power to nominate two Anglo Indians to the Lok Sabha, similarly, the Governor has the power to nominate one member^[1] from the Anglo Indian community as he/she deems fit, if he/she is of the opinion that they are not adequately represented in the Assembly.

Qualification

The qualifications to become a member of the state Legislature are largely similar to the qualifications to be a member of Parliament. A person should be i) a citizen of India ii) not less than 25 years of age^[2] to be a member of the Legislative Assembly and not less than 30 years as per Article 173 of Indian Constitution to be a member of the Legislative Council.

No person can become a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council of any state, unless the individual is a voter from any constituency of the state. Those who cannot become members of Parliament also cannot become members of the state legislature.

The member is elected by the people of that particular constituency and represents those people in the legislative assembly and debates on issues related to his or her constituency. The MLA's position is like an MP, but the difference is only that MLA is in the state level and the MP is in the national level.

Term

The term of the Legislative Assembly is five years. However, it may be dissolved earlier than that by the Governor on the request of the Chief Minister. The term of the Legislative Assembly may be extended during an emergency, but not more than six months at a time. The Legislative Council is the Upper House in the State. Just like the Rajya Sabha it is a permanent House. The members of the state's upper house are selected based on the strength of each party in the lower house and by state gubernatorial nomination. The term of is six years, and a third of the members of the House retire after every two years. The upper house of a state assembly, unlike the Upper house of the Parliament, can be abolished by the lower house, if it passes a specific law bill, which states to dissolve the upper house, and gets it attested in both houses of parliament and then signed by the president into law. Only Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh have their upper houses in existence with 6 year term, J&K also has 6 year term lower house. All other states have abolished the upper house by the above-mentioned method, as the upper house causes unnecessary problems and issues.

Powers

The most important function of the legislature is law making. The State Legislature has the power to make laws on all items on which Parliament cannot legislate. Some of these items are police, prisons, irrigation, agriculture, local governments, public health, pilgrimages, and burial grounds. Some topics on which both Parliament and states can make laws are education, marriage and divorce, forests, and the protection of wild animals and birds.

As regards money bills, the position is the same. Bills can originate only in the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Council can either pass the bill within 14 days of the date of the receipt of the Bill or suggest changes in it within 14 days. These changes may or may not be accepted by the Assembly

The state legislature, besides making laws, has one electoral power, in electing the President of India. Elected members of the Legislative Assembly along with the elected members of Parliament are involved in this process.

Some parts of the Constitution can be amended by Parliament with the approval of half of state legislatures. Thus the state legislatures take part in the process of amendment of the Constitution.

MLA party memberships as of 26 March 2018

State name	Total	INC	BJP	Leftists	Socialist	NDA	Others	Ind.	Vacant
<u>Andhra Pradesh</u>	175		4				TDP 127, YSRCP 44		
<u>Arunachal Pradesh</u>	60	1	48			PPA 9		2	
<u>Assam</u>	126	25	61			AGP 14, BPF 12	AIUDEF 13	1	
<u>Bihar</u>	243	27	53	CPI-ML 3	RJD 80	JDU 70, LJP 2, RLSP 2	HAM 1	4	1
<u>Chhattisgarh</u>	90	39	49				BSP 1	1	
<u>Goa</u>	40	16	14			MGP 3, GFP 3	NCP 1	3	
<u>Gujarat</u>	182	77	99				BTP 2, NCP 1	3	
<u>Haryana</u>	90	17	47		INLD 19	SAD 1	BSP 1	5	
<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	68	21	44	CPM 1				2	
<u>Jammu & Kashmir</u>	87	12	25	CPM 1		PDP 28, JKPC 2	NC 15, PDF 1	3	
<u>Jharkhand</u>	81	7	43	CPI-ML 1, MCC 1	JMM 19, JBSP 1	AJSU 4	JVM(P) 2, BSP 1, JP 1, NSM 1		
<u>Karnataka</u>	224	124	44		JDS 39		BSRC 3, KJP 2, KMP 1, SKP 1	9	1
<u>Kerala</u>	140	22	1	CPM 57, CPI 19, CMP(KSC) 1, RSP(L) 1, C(S) 1, NSC 1, KCB 1	JDS 3		IUML 18, KCM 6, KCJ 1, NCP 2,	5	1
<u>Madhya Pradesh</u>	230	57	166				BSP 4	3	
<u>Maharashtra</u>	288	42	122	PWPI 3, CPM 1		SS 63, RSP 1	NCP 41, BVA 3, AIMIM 2, MNS 1, BBM 1	7	1
<u>Manipur</u>	60	19	31			NPF 4, NPP 4, LJP 1		1	
<u>Meghalaya</u>	60	20	2			NPP 19, UDP 6, PDP 4, HSPDP 2	NCP 1, KHNAME 1	3	2
<u>Mizoram</u>	40	34				MNF 5	MPC 1		
<u>Nagaland</u>	60		12			NDPP 18, NPP 2, JDU 1	NPF 26	1	
<u>Odisha</u>	147	15	10	CPM 1	BJD 118, SKD 1			2	

<u>Punjab</u>	117	77	3			<u>SAD</u> 14	<u>AAP</u> 20, <u>LIP</u> 2		1	
<u>Rajasthan</u>	200	25	162			<u>NPP</u> 1	<u>BSP</u> 2, <u>NUZP</u> 2	7	1	
<u>Sikkim</u>	32					<u>SDF</u> 28	<u>SKM</u> 3	1		
<u>Tamil Nadu</u>	234	8					<u>AIADMK</u> 117, <u>DMK</u> 89, <u>IUML</u> 1	1	18*	
<u>Telangana</u>	119	13	5	<u>CPM</u> 1			<u>TRS</u> 90, <u>AIMIM</u> 7, <u>TDP</u> 3			
<u>Tripura</u>	60		36	<u>CPM</u> 16,		<u>IPFT</u> 8				
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>	403	7	311		<u>SP</u> 47	<u>ADS</u> 9, <u>SBSP</u> 4	<u>BSP</u> 19	5	1	
<u>Uttarakhand</u>	70	11	56					2	1	
<u>West Bengal</u>	294	42	3	<u>CPM</u> 26, <u>RSP</u> 3, <u>AIFB</u> 2, <u>CPI</u> 1			<u>AITC</u> 213, <u>GJM</u> 3	1		
<u>Delhi</u>	70		4				<u>AAP</u> 66			
<u>Puducherry</u>	30	15				<u>AINRC</u> 8,	<u>AIADMK</u> 4,	<u>BJP</u> 3	<u>DMK</u> 2	1
Total	4120	773	1455	142	327	352	970	73	28	

Presiding officers

Similar to the Presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council also have Presiding Officers. The Legislative Assembly has a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker and the Legislative Council has a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman. They are elected from among the members of the House.

See also

- Election Commission of India

References

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This page was last edited on 26 March 2018, at 11:08.

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