

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

A **Member of Parliament** of the Rajya Sabha (abbreviated: MP) is the representative of the Indian states to the upper house of the Parliament of India (Rajya Sabha). Rajya Sabha MPs are elected by the electoral college of the elected members of the State Assembly with a system of proportional representation by a single transferable vote. Parliament of India is bicameral with two houses; Rajya Sabha (Upper house i.e. Council of States) and the Lok Sabha (Lower house i.e. House of the People). Total number of members of Rajya Sabha are lesser than Member of Parliament of the Lok Sabha and have more restricted power than the lower house (Lok Sabha).^[1] Unlike membership to the Lok Sabha, membership to the Rajya Sabha is permanent for a term of six years cannot be dissolved at any time.^[2]

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Responsibilities of Members of Parliament

Broad responsibilities of the Members of Parliament of Rajya Sabha are;

- Legislative responsibility: To pass Laws of India in the Rajya Sabha.
- Oversight responsibility: To ensure that the executive (i.e. government) performs its duties satisfactorily
- Representative responsibility: To represent the views and aspirations of the people of their constituency in the Parliament of India (Rajya Sabha).
- Power of the purse responsibility: To approve and oversee the revenues and expenditures proposed by the government .
- The Union Council of Ministers who are also Members of Parliament have an additional responsibility of the executive as compared to those who are not in the Council of Ministers.^[2]

Special powers

Rajya Sabha enjoys certain special powers which in effect gives special powers and responsibilities to the Rajya Sabha MPs. The special powers are;

- Making laws on any subject in the State List
- Making laws for creating one or more All India Services (to be common across States and union territories of India) if it is deemed to serve the national interest.^[2]

Term

Unlike membership to the Lok Sabha, membership to the Rajya Sabha is permanent for a term of six years cannot be dissolved at any time.^[2]

Qualifications for being a Member of Parliament

A person must satisfy all following conditions to be qualified to become a Member of Parliament of the Rajya Sabha;

- Must be a citizen of India;
- 30 Year age;

Disqualifications for being a Member of Parliament

A person would be ineligible for being a Member of the Rajya Sabha if the person;

- Holds any office of profit under the Government of India (other than an office permitted by Parliament of India by law).
- Is of unsound mind.
- Is an undischarged insolvent.
- Has ceased to be a citizen of India.
- Is so disqualified by any law made by the Indian Parliament.
- Is so disqualified on the ground of defection.
- Has been convicted, among other things, for promoting enmity between different groups.
- Has been convicted for offence of bribery.
- Has been punished for preaching and practicing social crimes such as untouchability, dowry, or sati.
- Has been convicted for an offence and sentenced to imprisonment.
- Has been dismissed for corruption or for disloyalty to the State (in case of a government servant).

Composition/Strength

"Strength of Member of parliament in Lok Sabha as defined in Article 80 of the Constitution of India",

— Ministry of Law and Justice, Constitution of India (Part V—The Union.—Article 80.)

Members of the Rajya Sabha

See also

- Constitution of India
- Lok Sabha
- Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
- Parliament of India

References

1. "Member of Parliament" (<http://www.elections.in/parliamentary-constituencies/member-of-parliament.html>) elections.in. Retrieved 17 Jul 2016.
2. "The Indian Parliament" (<http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/about-parliament/the-indian-parliament-198/>) PRS Legislative Research Retrieved 17 Jul 2016.

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