

Chapter 5

Legislature

Questions and Answers

Q1. Why do we need Parliament?

A1. We need a Parliament because -

- a. It is a forum where ministers get together, debate, discuss and question the work done by the government.
- b. It is the basis of representative democracy.

Q2. Why is the importance of parliament declining?

A2. Parliament is losing its importance because:

1. There has been frequent walkouts, dharna, protests, and no parliamentary work is done on time.
2. In India, cabinet initiates policies, sets the agenda for governance and carries them through.
3. A lot of time is wasted with no real work being done.

Q3. Why do we need two Houses of Parliament?

A3. Bicameral legislature is when there are two houses of legislature. In India the two houses are called Rajya Sabha i.e. Council of States (Upper House) and Lok Sabha i.e. House of People (Lower House), States have the option to remain either unicameral or become bicameral. At present there are 5 states that have bicameral legislatures.

- a. Jammu and Kashmir
- b. Bihar
- c. Karnataka
- d. Madhya Pradesh
- e. Uttar Pradesh

Advantage of having a bicameral legislature is that

1. Countries with large size and diversity gives representation to all sections of society and all geographical regions.
2. Every decision taken by one house is reconsidered by second house. It means every policy and bill is discussed twice, so there is a double check.

Rajya Sabha

Q1. What is Rajya Sabha?

A1. Rajya Sabha is the house of parliament which represents the states of India.

Q2. How are the members elected?

A2. Members are elected indirectly by the representatives of state legislatures.

Q3. Which representation does RS follow?

A3. Our Rajya Sabha has asymmetrical representation. It means the members of states in Rajya Sabha are elected on the basis of population in the states.

Q4. Why does Rajya Sabha follow asymmetrical representation?

A4. RS follows asymmetrical representation so as to avoid inequality in representation between bigger and smaller states.

Q5. Why is Rajya Sabha called the permanent house of Parliament?

A5. All members of Rajya Sabha do not retire at the same time. After every two years, one third of the members retire and elections are held for that one third. Therefore, R.S. is never fully dissolved. That is why, it is called the permanent house of parliament.

LOK SABHA

Q1. What is Lok Sabha?

A1. Lok Sabha is the house of parliament which is elected directly by the people.

Q2. How many constituencies are there in India?

A2. 543

Q3. Why is Lok Sabha not called permanent house of Parliament?

A3. Lok Sabha is not called permanent house of parliament because the members are elected after every five years directly by the people.

Q4. How does Parliament make laws?

A4. Parliament's basic function is to make laws. Given below is the procedure of how to make laws.

A bill is the draft of the proposed law. There are many types of bills

On the basis of who introduces it:

1. Private member's bill : when a non-minister proposes
2. Government bill -: when a minister proposes.

On the basis of finances

1. Money bill
2. Non money bill

On the nature of bill**Ordinary bill****Constitution amendment bill**

First Stage: Before a bill is introduced in Parliament, there is a lot of debate on the need for introducing the bill. After demand, cabinet has to approve policy behind legislation. Now the drafting begins. The drafting of bill is prepared by concerned ministry. After the bill is prepared, it is introduced either in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha. The minister responsible for the bill introduces it. A money bill is introduced in Lok Sabha. And when it is passed it is sent to Rajya Sabha (for approval or suggestion. Rajya Sabha cannot reject money bill).

Second stage: Discussion takes place. committees also give their suggestions.

Third stage: Bill is put to vote. If it is passed by majority then it moves to other house. Same process takes place in the other House.

If there is a disagreement in the houses, a joint session is called. Mostly in a joint session, decision always goes in favor of Lok Sabha because they are more in number.

Q5. What are the powers of Rajya Sabha regarding money bill?

A5. The powers of Rajya Sabha regarding money bill is that it can approve or suggest some amendment but cannot initiate, reject or amend the bill. If the Rajya Sabha does not take any action for 14 days it is deemed to have been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Q6. How is the parliament able to exercise control over the purse strings of executive?

A6. A budget is an estimation of [revenue](#) and [expenses](#) over a specified future period of time.

Budget cannot be passed unless it is approved by majority in parliament. This constitutional obligation allows the legislature to exercise control over purse strings of government.

Role of committees

Q1. What is the role of committees?

A1. The committees play a vital role in providing in depth information about the provisions of a bill. It requires expertise and great research to draft the provisions of a bill. Since, the houses do not have much time to deliberate on every provision of a bill, committees discuss a bill in great length. Also, it reduces the burden of Parliament. It helps in the day to day business of the house.

Q2. What are the types of committees?

A2. There are two types of committees:

Standing committees who supervise the work of various departments, their budget, their expenditure, and bills that come up in the house. They are permanent in nature.

Joint committees: they are appointed for a specific purpose of discussing a particular bill or for investigating financial irregularities. They are temporary in nature. They are appointed for specific purpose only.

Q3. How does the Parliament regulate itself?

A3. The Parliament regulates itself through the amendments which are made from time to time. Example -

52ND Amendment: this is Anti - defection amendment. Here the members are restricted from defecting. It means that if a member remains absent in the house when asked by the party leadership, or votes against the instructions of the party or voluntarily leaves the membership of party, he is said to have been defected. If it is proved that the member has defected then he loses membership of the house and is disqualified from holding any political office.

91st Amendment: this amendment restricted the council of ministers to 15% of total membership of house of people.

Assignment Questions-

Q1. Explain the Functions performed by the Indian Parliament.

Q2. Differentiate Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Q3. How does the Parliament control the Executive?

Q4. What are parliamentary privileges?

