



## Parliament (Part-II)

### Parliament (Part-I)

#### Leaders in Parliament

- **Leader of the House:** Under the Rules of **Lok Sabha**, the **'Leader of the House'** means the **Prime Minister** (or another minister who is a member of Lok Sabha and is nominated by the PM to function as the Leader of the House).
  - There is also a **'Leader of the House' in the Rajya Sabha** who is a minister and a member of the Rajya Sabha and is nominated by the PM to function as such.
  - S/He **exercises direct influence on the conduct of business.**
  - The office of leader of the house is **not mentioned in the Constitution but in the Rules of the House.**
- **Leader of the Opposition:** The **leader of the largest Opposition party** having not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House is recognised as the leader of the Opposition in a House.
  - S/He **provides constructive criticism of the government policies** and to provide an alternative government.
  - The leader of Opposition in both the Houses were **accorded statutory recognition in 1977** and are entitled to the salary, allowances and other **facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.**
  - The office of leader of the opposition is **not mentioned in the Constitution but in the Parliamentary Statute.**
- **Whip:** Every political party, whether ruling or opposition has its own whip in the Parliament.
  - S/He is **appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader**, charged with the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of his party members in large numbers and securing their support in favour of or against a particular issue.
  - He **regulates and monitors their behaviour in the Parliament** and the members are supposed to follow the directives given by the whip.
  - The office of 'whip' is mentioned neither in the Indian Constitution nor in the other two statues mentioned above. It is **based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.**

#### Sessions of Parliament

- **Summoning:**
  - Summoning is the process of calling all members of the Parliament to meet.
    - The summoning of Parliament is specified in **Article 85** of the Constitution.
  - The **President** summons each House of the Parliament from time to time.
    - However, the maximum gap between two [sessions of Parliament](#) **cannot be more than six months.**

## ▪ Sessions:

- India does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar. By convention, Parliament meets for three sessions in a year.
  - **Budget Session: Longest session**, starts towards the end of January, and concludes by the end of April.
  - **Monsoon Session:** Second session, usually begins in July and finishes in August.
  - **Winter Session:** Third session, held from November to December.

## ▪ Adjournment:

- An adjournment suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks.
- When the meeting is terminated without any definite time/date fixed for the next meeting, it is called **Adjournment sine die**.
- The **power of adjournment** as well as adjournment sine die **lies with the presiding officer** ([Speaker](#) or Chairman) of the House.

## ▪ Prorogation:

- Unlike adjournment, **Prorogation terminates a sitting as well as the session** of the House.
- It is **done by the President** of India.
- Prorogation is **different from the dissolution** (of Lok Sabha).

## ▪ Quorum:

- Quorum refers to the minimum number of the members required to be present for conducting a meeting of the house.
- The Constitution has fixed **one-tenth strength** as quorum for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

## ▪ Joint Session of Parliament:

- The Constitution of India, under **Article 108**, provides for the joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, in order **to break any deadlock between the two**.
- The joint sitting is **called by the President** and is **presided over by the [Lok Sabha Speaker](#)**.
  - In the speaker's absence, the **Deputy Speaker** of the Lok Sabha presides over the meeting.
  - In the absence of both, it is presided over by the **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**.

## ▪ **Lame Duck Session:** It refers to the last session of the existing Lok Sabha, after a new Lok Sabha has been elected.

- Those members of the existing Lok Sabha who could not get re-elected to the new Lok Sabha are called lame-ducks.

## Devices of Parliamentary Proceedings

### ▪ Question Hour:

- The **first hour of every parliamentary sitting** is termed as **[Question hour](#)**. It is mentioned in the **Rules of Procedure of the House**.
- During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers. The questions are of three types:
  - **Starred questions:** These are **distinguished by an asterisk** and **require oral answers**. Hence **supplementary questions can follow**.
  - **Unstarred questions:** It **requires a written answer** and hence, **supplementary questions cannot follow**.

- **Short notice questions:** The **matters of public importance** and of urgent character are considered under this type of questions. These are asked by **giving a notice of less than ten days** and are **answered orally**.

▪ **Zero Hour:**

- A **Zero Hour** is an **Indian parliamentary innovation**. It is not mentioned in the parliamentary rules book.
  - Under this, the Members of Parliament (**MPs**) **can raise matters without any prior notice**.
- The zero hour starts **immediately after the question hour** and lasts until the agenda for the day (regular business of the House) is taken up.
  - In other words, the time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour.

▪ **Half-an-Hour Discussion:**

- It is meant for **discussing a matter of sufficient public importance**, which has been subjected to a lot of debate and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact.
- The Speaker can allot three days in a week for such discussions. There is no formal motion or voting before the House.

▪ **Short Duration Discussion:**

- It is also known as **two-hour discussion** as the time allotted for such a discussion should not exceed two hours.
- The members of the Parliament can raise such **discussions on a matter of urgent public importance**.
- The Speaker can allot two days in a week for such discussions. There is neither a formal motion before the house nor voting.
- This device has been in existence since 1953.

<b>Motions in Indian Parliament</b>	
<b>Privilege Motion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is moved by a member when he feels that a minister has committed a <b>breach of privilege of the House</b> or one or more of its members by withholding facts of a case or by giving wrong or distorted facts. Its purpose is to <b>censure the concerned minister</b>.</li> <li>▪ It can be moved in <b>Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Censure Motion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.</li> <li>▪ It can be <b>moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers</b>.</li> <li>▪ It is moved to <b>censure the council of ministers for specific policies and actions</b>.</li> <li>▪ It can be moved <b>only in Lok Sabha</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Call-Attention Motion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is introduced in the Parliament by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of <b>urgent public importance</b>, and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter.</li> <li>▪ It can be moved in <b>Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment Motion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is <b>introduced in the Lok Sabha</b> to draw the <b>attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance</b>.</li> <li>▪ It involves an element of censure against the government.</li> <li>▪ It can be <b>moved only in Lok Sabha</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>No-Day-Yet-Named Motion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is a motion that has been <b>admitted by the Speaker</b> but no date has been fixed for its discussion.</li> <li>▪ It can be <b>moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>No Confidence Motion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Article 75</b> of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ In other words, the <b>Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion.</b></li> <li>◦ The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It can be <b>moved only in Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Motion of Thanks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <b>first session after each general election</b> and the <b>first session of every fiscal year</b> is addressed by the president. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ This address of the president is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the '<b>Motion of Thanks</b>'.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ This motion <b>must be passed in the House.</b> Otherwise, it <b>amounts to the defeat of the government.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Cut Motions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A cut motion is a <b>special power vested in members of the Lok Sabha</b> to oppose a demand being discussed for specific allocation by the government in the <b>Finance Bill</b> as part of the <b>Demand for Grants.</b></li> <li>▪ If the motion is adopted, <b>it amounts to a no-confidence vote,</b> and if the government fails to jot up numbers in the lower House, <b>it is obliged to resign</b> according to the norms of the House.</li> <li>▪ A motion may be moved to reduce the amount of a demand in any of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Policy Cut Motion:</b> It is moved so that the amount of the <b>demand be reduced to Re.1</b> (represents disapproval of the policy underlying the demand).</li> <li>◦ <b>Economy Cut Motions:</b> It is moved so that the <b>amount of the demand will be reduced by a specified amount.</b></li> <li>◦ <b>Token Cut Motions:</b> It is moved so that the amount of the <b>demand is reduced by Rs.100</b> (expresses a specific grievance).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ It can be <b>moved only in Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Closure Motion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is a motion <b>moved by a member to cut short the debate on a matter before the House.</b></li> <li>▪ If the motion is approved by the House, debate is stopped forthwith and the matter is put to vote.</li> <li>▪ There are four kinds of closure motions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Simple Closure:</b> It is one when a member moves that the 'matter having been sufficiently discussed be now put to vote'.</li> <li>◦ <b>Closure by Compartments:</b> In this case, the clauses of a bill or a lengthy resolution are grouped into parts before the commencement of the debate. The debate covers the part as a whole and the entire part is put to vote.</li> <li>◦ <b>Kangaroo Closure:</b> Under this type, only important clauses are taken up for debate and voting and the intervening clauses are skipped over and taken as passed.</li> <li>◦ <b>Guillotine Closure:</b> It is one when the undiscussed clauses of a bill or a resolution are also put to vote along with the discussed ones due to want of time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Point of Order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A member can raise a point of order when the proceedings of the <b>House do not follow the normal rules of procedure.</b></li> <li>▪ A point of order should relate to the <b>interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of the House</b> or such articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the House and should raise a question that is within the cognizance of the Speaker.</li> <li>▪ It is <b>usually raised by an opposition member</b> in order to control the government.</li> <li>▪ It is an extraordinary device as it suspends the proceedings before the House. No debate is allowed on a point of order.</li> </ul>
<b>Special Mention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A matter which is not a point of order or which cannot be raised during question hour, half-an hour discussion, short duration discussion or under adjournment motion, calling attention notice or under any rule of the House can be raised under the special mention in the Rajya Sabha.</li> <li>▪ Its <b>equivalent procedural device in the Lok Sabha is known as 'Notice (Mention) Under Rule 377'.</b></li> </ul>

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