



# Guillotine in Indian Legislative

## Why in News?

The **ongoing stalemate in Parliament** has led to speculation that the government may **guillotine** the demands for grants and pass the **Finance Bill without any discussion**.

- This has led to confusion and questions about what exactly guillotine means in **legislative parlance**.

## What is Guillotine?

- The term **guillotine** originally referred to an apparatus designed for **executions by beheading**.
  - It was introduced in **France during the French Revolution** to make **capital punishment** more reliable and less painful.
- In legislative parlance, **guillotine means to bunch together** and fast-track the **passage of financial business**. It is a fairly **common procedural exercise in Lok Sabha** during the **Budget Session**.
  - Once the **guillotine is applied**, any **remaining demands for grants are put to vote** without further discussion.
  - This ensures that the **budget** is passed within the allocated time, and the government can continue its work without any delay.

## What is the Guillotine Parliamentary Procedure?

- After the Budget is presented, Parliament goes into recess for about three weeks, during which time the **House Standing Committees** examine **demands for grants** for various Ministries and prepare reports.
  - After Parliament reassembles, the **Business Advisory Committee (BAC)** draws up a schedule for discussions on the Demands for Grants.
- Sometimes, given the limitation of time, the House cannot take up the expenditure demands of all Ministries; therefore, the BAC identifies some important Ministries for discussions; usually the **Ministries of Home, Defence, External Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development and Human Resource Development**.
  - Once the House is done with these debates, the **Speaker applies the “guillotine”, and all outstanding demands for grants (discussed or not) and undiscussed clauses of a bill/resolution are put to vote at once** in order to save time.

**Source: IE**