



Private Member's Bill to be Scheduled on Wednesdays

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Why in News

Recently, the members of parliament has demanded for consideration of private members' Bills on Wednesdays instead of Fridays.

- They have also demanded that time allotted for **private member's bill** consideration should not be cut short unless there is an issue of national significance to be discussed in the House.
- It has been observed that most of the members of the parliament as well as Prime Minister are found absent on Fridays which reduces significance and impact of presentation of private member's bill in the house.

Private Member's Bill

- Any Member of Parliament (MP) who is not a minister is referred to as a **private member**.
- The purpose of private member's bill is to draw the government's attention to what individual MPs see as issues and gaps in the existing legal framework, which require legislative intervention.

Thus it reflects the stand of the **opposition party on public matters**.

- Its drafting is the responsibility of the member concerned.
- Its introduction in the House requires **one month's notice**.
- The government bills can be introduced and discussed on any day, private member's bills can be introduced and discussed **only on Fridays**.
- Its rejection by the House has no implication **on the parliamentary confidence** in the government or its resignation.
- Upon conclusion of the discussion, the member piloting the bill can either withdraw it on the request of the minister concerned, or he may choose to press ahead with its passage.

- The last time a private member's bill was passed by both Houses was in **1970**. It was the **Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968**.
- **14** private member's bills — five of which were introduced in Rajya Sabha — have **become law** so far. Some other private member bills that have become laws include-
 - Proceedings of Legislature (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1956, in the Lok Sabha;
 - The Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1964, introduced by in the Lok Sabha and
 - The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1967 introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Source:TH