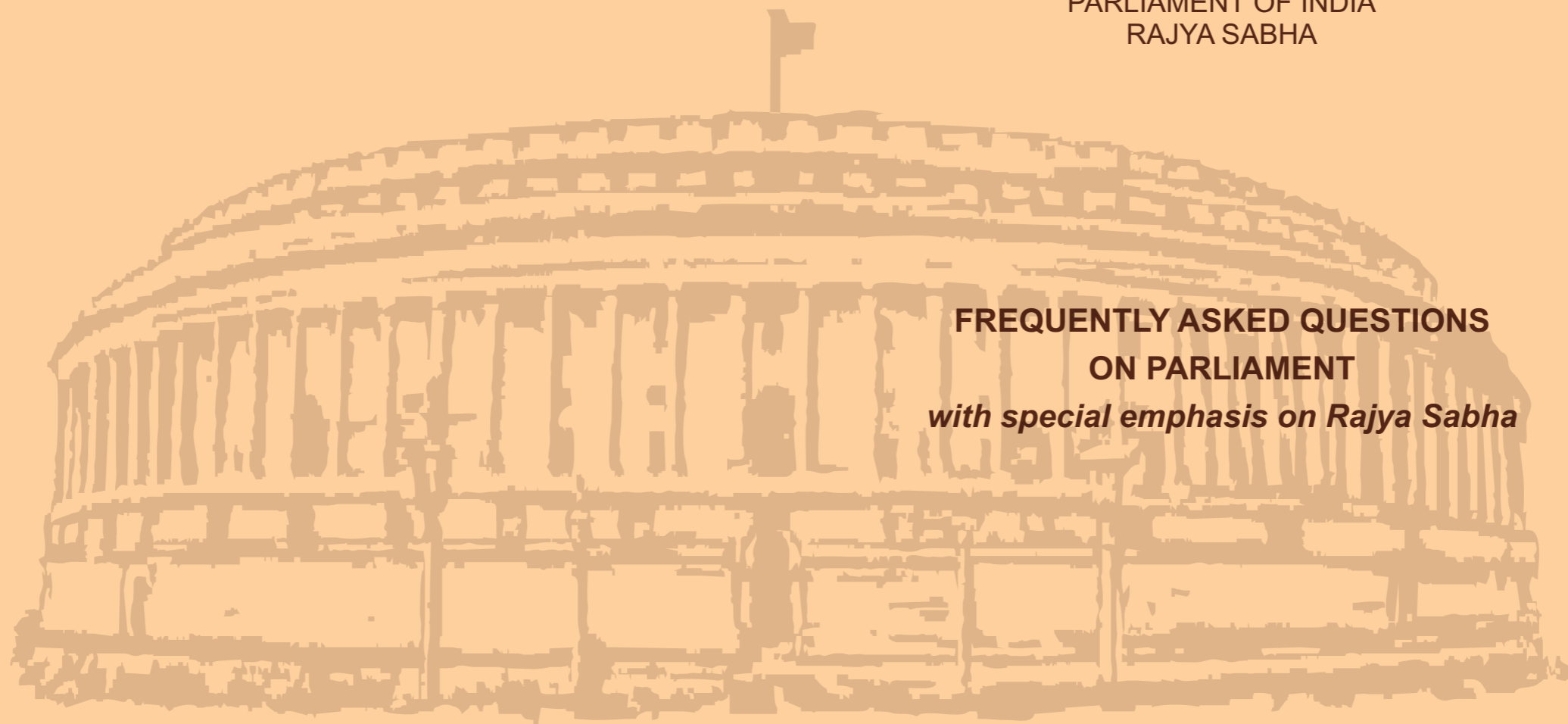




PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA



**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ON PARLIAMENT**
with special emphasis on Rajya Sabha



PRINTED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, MINTO ROAD, NEW DELHI-110002

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
2016



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Frequently Asked Questions on Parliament With special emphasis on Rajya Sabha



RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
2016

C O N T E N T S

Sl. No.	Sections	Q. Nos.	Page Nos.
1.	A Brief Summary		1
2.	History of Rajya Sabha	1-6	1-2
3.	Composition of Rajya Sabha	7-11	2
4.	Officers of Rajya Sabha	12-23	2-4
5.	Members of Rajya Sabha	24-38	4-6
6.	Members' Salaries and Allowances	39-41	6-7
7.	Role and Functions of Rajya Sabha	42-47	7-9
8.	Parliamentary Committees	48-66	9-13
9.	Legislation	67-78	13-15
10.	Procedures for raising Matters of Public Interest	79-99	15-19
11.	Parliamentary Privileges	100-103	19-20
12.	MPLADS	104-107	20-21
13.	Media and Rajya Sabha	108-109	21
14.	Right to Information and Rajya Sabha Secretariat	110-111	21-22
15.	Parliamentary Forums	112-113	22-23
16.	Contacting Rajya Sabha	114-120	23
17.	Table: Current Status of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha	121	24-25
18.	Table: DRSCs under Rajya Sabha and the Ministries/ Departments under their purview	122	26
19.	Table: DRSCs under Lok Sabha and the Ministries/Departments under their purview	123	27-28

A Brief Summary

India has a bicameral legislature. Our Constitution provides that Parliament shall consist of the President and the two Houses known respectively as the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). The power to summon and prorogue either House of Parliament or to dissolve the Lok Sabha vests with the President.

The Rajya Sabha is a permanent House and is not subject to dissolution. However, nearly one-third of its members retire every second year. Being a federal chamber, representing States and Union Territories, the Rajya Sabha occupies a significant place in the parliamentary and constitutional setup of India. Here are a few Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that give an insight into the history of the Rajya Sabha as well as its relationship with the Lok Sabha.

History of Rajya Sabha

1. *When was the Rajya Sabha first constituted?*

The Rajya Sabha was constituted on 3 April, 1952.

2. *When did the Rajya Sabha meet for the first time?*

The Rajya Sabha met for the first time on 13 May, 1952.

3. *When was the Council of States named as Rajya Sabha in Hindi?*

It was named Rajya Sabha on 23 August, 1954. The Chairman, Rajya Sabha made an announcement in the House that the Council of States would now be called 'Rajya Sabha' in Hindi.

4. *Who was the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha?*

The first Chairman of Rajya Sabha was Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. He was elected unopposed for two consecutive terms (13.5.1952—12.5.1957 and 13.5.1957—12.5.1962).

5. *Are there other Chairmen of Rajya Sabha who have held office consecutively for two terms?*

The current Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Hamid Ansari is continuing as the Vice-President of India for a second term (11.8.2007—10.8.2012 and again from 11.8.2012—till date).

6. *Who was the first Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha?*

The first Deputy Chairman was Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao. He was also elected unopposed for two consecutive terms (31.5.1952—2.4.1956 and 25.4.1956 — 1.3.1962).

Composition of Rajya Sabha

7. *What is the maximum strength of Rajya Sabha?*

The maximum strength of Rajya Sabha is 250 Members, of which 238 are to be elected and 12 are to be nominated by the President of India.

8. *How many members does each State have in Rajya Sabha?*

The number of members varies from State to State. The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for the allocation of seats to various States and Union Territories. The State of Uttar Pradesh has maximum number of members (31). The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have got only 1 member each.

9. *How many members are elected from Union Territories?*

Out of seven Union Territories, only two Union Territories namely Delhi and Puducherry are represented in Rajya Sabha as only these two Territories have Assemblies. Four members are elected from these Union Territories (3 from Delhi and 1 from Puducherry).

10. *What is the term of a member of Rajya Sabha?*

The term of a member is six years; but a member elected in a bye-election serves for the remainder of the term of the vacancy caused.

11. *What is the quorum to constitute a meeting of Rajya Sabha?*

It is one-tenth of the total members of the House, *i.e.*, 25 members.

Officers of Rajya Sabha

12. *Who is the Chairman of Rajya Sabha?*

The Vice-President of India is the *ex officio* Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

13. *How is the Vice-President of India elected?*

The Vice-President is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

14. *What is the term of office of Vice-President of India?*

The term of office of the Vice-President is five years from the date he enters upon his office.

15. *How is the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha elected?*

The Deputy Chairman is elected by the members of Rajya Sabha from among its members.

16. *What are the responsibilities of the Deputy Chairman?*

He performs the duties of the office of the Chairman when the office of Chairman is vacant; and during any period when the Vice-President is acting as, or discharging the functions of the President.

17. *Who presides over proceedings of the Rajya Sabha in the absence of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman?*

The Chairman, Rajya Sabha nominates six members on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, one of whom presides over the House in the absence of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman. When neither the Chairman nor the Deputy Chairman and none of the Vice-Chairmen is present to preside, the House may choose any other member present to preside.

18. *What are the responsibilities of the Leader of the House?*

The Leader of the House plays an important role in drawing up the programme of official business in the House. Normally, the Prime Minister nominates a Minister who is a member of Rajya Sabha as Leader of the House, but if the Prime Minister himself is a member of Rajya Sabha, he will be the Leader of the House.

19. *How is the Leader of Opposition appointed?*

The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act of 1977 defines the Leader of the Opposition in relation to either House of Parliament, as a "Member of the Council of States or the House of the People, as the case may be, who is, for the time being, the Leader in that House of the Party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognized as such by the Chairman of the Council of States or the Speaker of the House of the People, as the case may be." The Leader of Opposition is accorded statutory recognition and given salary and certain other facilities and amenities under the Act.

20. *What happens when two or more parties in opposition have the same numerical strength?*

Where there are two or more parties in opposition to the Government, having the same numerical strength, the Chairman, having regard to the status of

the parties, recognizes anyone of the Leaders of such parties as the Leader of the Opposition and such recognition is final and conclusive.

21. What are the responsibilities of the Leader of the Opposition?

The Leader of the Opposition watches for encroachments on the rights of minorities, demands debates when Government is trying to slide away without parliamentary criticism. He must be in his place often and must be familiar with the skills of a parliamentarian and all the opportunities available under the rules of the House.

22. How is the Secretary-General appointed?

The Secretary-General who is an officer of the Rajya Sabha is appointed by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

23. What is the role of the Secretary-General?

The Secretary-General has a wide array of functions which include among others, assisting the Presiding Officer in conducting the proceedings of the House by giving them advice and expert opinion; reporting messages from the Lok Sabha about Bills or any other matter to the House; receiving all notices under the rules which are addressed to him; being the custodian of the records of the House; preparing full report of the proceedings of the House and also issuing the List of Business for the day. He does not participate in the debate. He is also the administrative head of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Members of Rajya Sabha

24. How are members of Rajya Sabha elected?

Members of Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the Assemblies of States and Union Territories in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

25. What are the requirements to become a member of Rajya Sabha?

A person should be a citizen of India; be not less than 30 years of age and should possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed by law made by Parliament.

26. Should a member be a domicile of the State from which he is elected to Rajya Sabha?

No. He has to be an elector in a parliamentary constituency anywhere in India.

27. *How many nominated members are there in Rajya Sabha?*

There are twelve members who are nominated by the President of India from amongst persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service.

28. *Do the nominated members vote in the election of the Vice-President of India and the President of India?*

The nominated members of Rajya Sabha have a right to vote in the election of the Vice-President of India but they are not entitled to vote in the election of the President of India.

29. *Who was the first nominated woman member of the Rajya Sabha?*

The first nominated woman member of the Rajya Sabha was Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale (1952-56 and 1956-62).

30. *Who are the current nominated members in Rajya Sabha?*

The current nominated members are Ms. Anu Aga, Shri Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati, Shri Swapan Dasgupta, Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Smt. M.C. Mary Kom, Shri K. Parasaran, Ms. Rekha, Shri Suresh Gopi, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Shri Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar and Shri K.T.S. Tulsi.

31. *How many members of Rajya Sabha are there in the Council of Ministers?*

Currently, there are 21 members of Rajya Sabha in the Council of Ministers. They are Shri Arun Jaitley, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Manohar Parrikar, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Chaudhary Birender Singh, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri Piyush Goyal, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Shri Y.S. Chowdary, Shri M.J. Akbar, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Shri Vijay Goel, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya and Shri Parshottam Rupala.

32. *Can a Minister who is a member of Lok Sabha participate in the proceedings of Rajya Sabha?*

A Minister who is a member of Lok Sabha has the right to speak in and take part in the proceedings of Rajya Sabha but has no right to vote in Rajya Sabha and *vice-versa*.

33. *What are the names of the members of Rajya Sabha who became the Prime Minister of India?*

Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral and Dr. Manmohan Singh.

34. *What are the names of the members of Rajya Sabha who became the Finance Minister of India?*

Sarvashri Pranab Mukherjee, S.B. Chavan, Narayan Dutt Tiwari, V.P. Singh, Yashwant Sinha, Jaswant Singh, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Arun Jaitley.

35. *Who is the longest serving member in Rajya Sabha?*

The longest serving member in Rajya Sabha is Shri Ram Jethmalani. It is his sixth term in the House.

36. *Who has the longest legislative experience among the members of Rajya Sabha?*

Shri Sharad Pawar has the longest legislative experience among the members of Rajya Sabha.

37. *Can a member of Rajya Sabha be disqualified?*

A person can be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being a member of Rajya Sabha if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder; if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgement of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State; if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament; and if he is so disqualified under the Tenth Schedule which provides for disqualification on grounds of defection. The same rules apply for a member of the Lok Sabha.

38. *Who decides if the member is disqualified from being a member of Rajya Sabha?*

If any question arises as to whether a member of the House has become subject to disqualification under Article 102(1) of the Constitution, the question is referred for the decision of the President and his decision is final. However, before giving his decision on such question the President obtains the opinion of the Election Commission of India and acts according to such opinion. On the other hand, if any question arises as to whether a member of the House has become subject to disqualification under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution, the question is referred to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and his decision is final. In the case of Lok Sabha, the question is referred to the Speaker, Lok Sabha and her decision would be final.

Members' Salaries and Allowances

39. *What are the salary and allowances of members of Rajya Sabha?*

Salary, allowances and pension of the members are governed by the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 and the Rules

made thereunder. The Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament is a statutory Committee constituted under the Act, 1954 for the purpose of making rules under that Act. The Committee after consultation with the Central Government makes rules to provide for matters like medical, housing, telephone facilities, etc. and regulating the payment of various allowances to which members are entitled under the Act. Every member is entitled to a salary of Rupees 50,000/- per mensem during the term of his/her office and a daily allowance at the rate of Rupees 2,000/- for each day during the period of residence on duty for attending a Session of a House of Parliament or a meeting of a Committee thereof. Period of residence on duty includes 3 days immediately preceding and succeeding the Session of the House and two days preceding and succeeding the meeting of a Committee. Besides, a member is entitled to daily allowance for the purpose of attending to any other business connected with his/her duties as a Member of Parliament. Daily allowance is admissible only when the members sign the register maintained for the purpose. For more details please go to <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/>

40. *What are the amenities available to members of Rajya Sabha?*

Every member can avail Constituency Allowance of 45,000/- per mensem and the Office Expense Allowance of 45,000/- per mensem. Besides, a member is entitled to travel allowance, rail travel facilities, air journeys, accommodation, medical facilities, telephone facilities, electricity and water facilities, advance for the purchase of conveyance, financial entitlement for purchasing computer equipment etc.. For more details please go to <http://rajyasabha.nic.in.>

41. *What are the amenities available to ex-MPs?*

Former Members of Parliament are entitled to get pensionary benefits, free rail travel facility and medical facilities. Family Pension is given to the spouse/ dependent of the deceased member/ ex- member.

Role and functions of Rajya Sabha

42. *What are the special powers of Rajya Sabha?*

Rajya Sabha enjoys certain special powers compared to Lok Sabha which are as follows:

- to empower Parliament to make laws in respect of any matter enumerated in the State List in the national interest by adopting a resolution to this effect (article 249);
- to create All India Services (article 312); and

- to approve Proclamations (issued under articles 352, 356 and 360) if the Lok Sabha stands dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place within the period allowed for the approval of the Proclamation by Parliament.

43. *What is the legislative relationship between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?*

In legislative matters, Rajya Sabha enjoys almost equal powers with Lok Sabha, except in the case of Money Bills where the Lok Sabha has overriding powers. Such Bills cannot be introduced in Rajya Sabha and are deemed to have been passed by both the Houses if these are not returned by Rajya Sabha to Lok Sabha within a period of fourteen days.

44. *Is any deadlock between the two Houses possible?*

Yes. A disagreement between the two Houses can arise when a Bill passed by one House is rejected by the other House; or when the Houses have disagreed on the amendments to be made in the Bill; or more than six months has lapsed from the date of the reception of the Bill by the other House without the Bill being passed by it.

45. *What is the mechanism for resolving the deadlock between the two Houses?*

A joint sitting of both Houses is convened for this purpose as provided in article 108 of the Constitution. There is no question of a deadlock over Money Bills as the Rajya Sabha has a limited say in the matter. There is no provision for a joint sitting in case of a deadlock over a Constitution Amendment Bill.

46. *How many joint sittings have been convened so far?*

In the history of Parliament of India, there have been three occasions when both Houses of Parliament held a joint sitting to resolve deadlock on Bills between them. These occasions were:

- 6 and 9 May, 1961 on the Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1959;
- 17 May, 1978 on the Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1977; and
- 26 March 2002 on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002.

47. *What are the powers of the Rajya Sabha with respect to Money Bill?*

After a Money Bill is introduced and passed by the Lok Sabha, it is transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence or recommendation. Rajya Sabha has to

return the Money Bill to Lok Sabha within a period of fourteen days from its receipt. It cannot amend the Money Bill directly; it can only recommend amendments to the Bill. Lok Sabha may either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha. If Lok Sabha accepts any of the recommendations made by Rajya Sabha, the Bill is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses with the amendments so recommended and accepted. If, however, Lok Sabha does not accept any of the recommendations of Rajya Sabha, the Money Bill is deemed to have been passed by both Houses of Parliament in the form in which it was passed by Lok Sabha without any of the amendments recommended by Rajya Sabha.

Parliamentary Committees

48. *What are the different categories of Parliamentary Committees of Rajya Sabha?*

Parliamentary Committees of the Rajya Sabha may be categorized as ad hoc Committees and Standing Committees.

49. *What are ad hoc Committees?*

Ad hoc Committees are those Committees which may be constituted by the House or by the Chairman or by the Presiding Officers of both Houses jointly to consider and report on specific matters. Such Committees become *functus officio* as soon as they complete their work. These Committees may be divided into two categories, the Select or Joint Committees on Bills constituted by the House(s) on specific motion to consider and report on Bills; Committees which are constituted from time to time enquire into and report on specific subjects.

50. *What are Standing Committees?*

Standing Committees are permanent Committees whose members are either elected by the House or nominated by the Chairman every year or from time to time.

51. *What are the Standing Committees in Rajya Sabha?*

The Standing Committees in Rajya Sabha are: Business Advisory Committee, General Purposes Committee, Committee on Government Assurances, House Committee, Committee on Petitions, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table, Committee of Privileges, Committee on Rules, Committee on Ethics, Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha, Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and the Department-related Standing Committees.

52. When did the Rules Committees of both Houses meet together for the first time?

The Rules Committee of both the Houses met for the first time at a joint sitting on 11 March, 1993 to discuss the setting up of Standing Committees related to the various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government.

53. What are Department-related Standing Committees?

Department-related Standing Committees (DRSCs) are Committees which scrutinize the functioning of the various Ministries/ Departments of the Union Government assigned to them in order to further strengthen the accountability of the Government to Parliament. These Committees were constituted in 1993.

54. How many DRSCs have been constituted?

Twenty-four DRSCs have been constituted, each consisting of not more than thirty-one members. Out of these, twenty-one members are nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and ten members are nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

55. What are the DRSCs which are under the jurisdiction of Rajya Sabha?

There are eight Department-related Standing Committees, namely, Committee on Commerce; Committee on Home Affairs; Committee on Human Resource Development; Committee on Industry; Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests; Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture; Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice; and Committee on Health and Family Welfare.

56. What are the DRSCs which are under the jurisdiction of Lok Sabha?

There are sixteen Department-related Standing Committees, namely, Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers; Committee on Coal and Steel; Committee on Defence; Committee on Energy; Committee on External Affairs; Committee on Finance; Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution; Committee on Information Technology; Committee on Labour; Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas; Committee on Railways; Committee on Rural Development; Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment; Committee on Urban Development; and Committee on Water Resources.

57. *What are the main functions of the DRSCs?*

The DRSCs are entrusted to consider the Demands for Grants of the related Ministries/ Departments and report thereon; to examine Bills, pertaining to the related Ministries/Departments, referred to the Committee and report thereon; to consider the annual reports of the Ministries/ Departments and report thereon; and to consider national basic long term policy documents and report thereon.

58. *How many DRSCs are there under the jurisdiction of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha?*

Eight DRSCs function under the control and direction of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, while sixteen DRSCs function under the control and direction of the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

59. *Is the Chairman, Rajya Sabha a member of any Committee?*

The Chairman, Rajya Sabha is the Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, General Purposes Committee and Committee on Rules. The Deputy Chairman is the Chairman of the Committee of Privileges.

60. *How is the Chairmanship of the Committees of Rajya Sabha determined?*

The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha appoints the Chairmen of Committees in consultation with the leaders of political parties/groups concerned. The Chairmanship of Committees are generally allotted to the parties, as per their numerical strength. In the Standing Committees, namely, Committee on Petitions, Committee on Government Assurances, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and the House Committee, the Chairmanship is shared between the ruling and the opposition parties in proportion to their numerical strength in the House.

61. *What are the functions of the Committee on Ethics?*

The Committee on Ethics oversees the moral and ethical conduct of members; prepares a Code of Conduct for members and suggests amendments or additions to the Code from time to time in the form of reports to the Council; examines cases concerning the alleged breach of the Code of Conduct by members as also cases concerning allegations of any other ethical misconduct of members; and tenders advice to members from time to time on questions involving ethical standards either *suo motu* or on receiving specific requests.

62. *What sanctions can the Committee on Ethics impose on proved unethical behavior or misconduct of a member?*

The Committee may recommend imposition of one or more of the following sanctions, namely, censure; reprimand; suspension from the Council for a specific period; and any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

63. *What is the Code of Conduct for members enumerated by the Committee on Ethics and adopted by the Rajya Sabha?*

The Code of Conduct for members of Rajya Sabha stipulates that the members should acknowledge their responsibility to maintain the public trust reposed in them and should work diligently to discharge their mandate for common good of the people. They must hold in high esteem the Constitution, the Law, Parliamentary Institutions and above all the general public. They should constantly strive to translate the ideals laid down in the Preamble to the Constitution into a reality. The Code of Conduct enumerates fourteen principles which the members should abide by in their dealings. Details of the principles are available at:

<http://164.100.47.5/newcommittee/reports/EnglishCommittees/Committee%20on%20Ethics/1streport.htm>

64. *In pursuance of the Rajya Sabha (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Rules, 2004 what information is required to be furnished by members to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha?*

Under Rule 3 of the members of Rajya Sabha (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Rules, 2004, every elected member of Rajya Sabha is required to furnish to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, within 90 days from the date of his taking oath/affirmation, information regarding the movable and immovable property of which he, his spouse and his dependent children are jointly or severally owners or beneficiaries; his liabilities to any public financial institution; and his liabilities to the Central Government or to the State Governments.

65. *What are the pecuniary interests and the ingredients thereof, identified by the Committee on Ethics, in respect of which information is to be furnished by members?*

Members have to furnish information relating to pecuniary interests on Remunerative Directorship, Regular Remunerated Activity, Shareholding of Controlling Nature, Paid Consultancy and Professional Engagement.

66. *Do the pecuniary interests of members outside the country come under its purview?*

Yes. Under the said Rule, information that members furnish has to be in respect of their pecuniary interests, whether held within the country or outside.

Legislation

67. *What is a Bill?*

A Bill is a legislative proposal brought before the House for its approval.

68. *What are the types of Bills?*

The Bills initiated by Ministers are called Government Bills and those introduced by Members who are not Ministers, are known as Private Members' Bills. Depending on their contents, Bills may further be classified broadly into: original Bills which embody new proposals; amending Bills which seek to amend existing Acts; consolidating Bills which seek to consolidate existing law on a particular subject; Expiring Laws (Continuance) Bills which, otherwise, would expire on a specified date; repealing Bills; Bills to replace Ordinances; Money and Financial Bills; and Constitution Amendment Bills.

69. *How many Private Members' Bills have been enacted? How many were initiated by Members of Rajya Sabha? Which is the latest Private Member's Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha after a span of 36 years?*

Fourteen Private Members' Bills have been enacted into laws out of which five were initiated by Members of Rajya Sabha. These Bills were: (i) The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Bill, 1954, (ii) The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1956, (iii) The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Bill, 1960, (iv) The Marine Insurance Bill, 1963, and (v) The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1967.

After a span of more than 36 years, a Private Member Bill called the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014, introduced by Shri Tiruchi Siva was unanimously passed by the Rajya Sabha on 24 April 2015. The Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 29 April 2015.

70. *What are the important legislations concerning women's rights which have been introduced in Rajya Sabha?*

The important legislations concerning women's rights which have originated in the Rajya Sabha are The Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, 1952,

The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Bill, 1953, The Hindu Succession Bill, 1954, The Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Bill, 1956 and The Constitution (Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008.

71. *Who initiated the Private Member's Resolution in the Rajya Sabha highlighting the vulgarity in films which led to the introduction of the Censorship Act?*

Smt. Lilavati Munshi introduced the Resolution prohibiting the exhibition of undesirable films which was adopted by the House in 1954. That Resolution moved the Government to amend the Cinematograph Act in 1959.

72. *What is the difference between a Bill and an Act?*

A Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament becomes an Act only after it has been assented to by the President.

73. *What are the steps involved in the passage of a Bill?*

A Bill while being considered has to undergo three stages in each House of Parliament. The first stage is the Introduction, which is done on a motion moved by either a Minister or a Member. During the second stage any of the following motions can be moved: that the Bill be taken into consideration; or that it be referred to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha; or that it be referred to a Joint Committee of the two Houses; or that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon. Thereafter, the Bill is taken up for the clause-by-clause consideration as introduced or as reported by the Select/Joint Committee. The third stage is confined to the discussion on the motion that the Bill be passed and the Bill is passed/rejected either by voting or voice vote (or returned to Lok Sabha, in the case of a Money Bill).

74. *Does the Chairman have a right to cast a vote?*

The Chairman has a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

75. *What are the methods of voting in Rajya Sabha?*

In Rajya Sabha, generally four methods of voting are adopted: Voice vote, Counting, Division by automatic vote recorder and Division by going into the Lobbies.

76. *What are the effects of dissolution of Lok Sabha on the Business of Rajya Sabha?*

- Bills originating in Rajya Sabha which are still pending in that House do not lapse on the dissolution of Lok Sabha.

- Bills originating in Rajya Sabha which having been passed by the House and transmitted to Lok Sabha and pending there lapse on the dissolution of Lok Sabha.
- Bills originating in Lok Sabha which having been passed by that House and transmitted to Rajya Sabha and still pending there on the date of dissolution of Lok Sabha, lapse.
- Bills originating in Rajya Sabha and returned to that House by Lok Sabha with amendments and still pending there on the date of its dissolution, lapse.
- A Bill upon which the Houses have disagreed and the President has notified his intention to summon a Joint Sitting of the Houses to consider the Bill prior to dissolution does not lapse on dissolution of Lok Sabha.
- A Bill passed by the two Houses of Parliament and sent to the President for assent does not lapse on the dissolution of Lok Sabha.
- A Bill returned by the President to Rajya Sabha for reconsideration of the Houses does not lapse if the dissolution of Lok Sabha takes place without the Houses having considered the Bill.

77. *What are the special powers of Rajya Sabha?*

Please see answer to Q. 42.

78. *What are the special powers of Lok Sabha?*

Lok Sabha enjoys special powers in regard to the 'collective responsibility' of the Government and in financial matters. The Constitution provides that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of People (Lok Sabha). Therefore, Motions such as No Confidence Motion, Adjournment Motion and Censure Motion are admissible only in Lok Sabha. The power to control the purse also lies with Lok Sabha. A Money Bill has to be introduced only in Lok Sabha and it has overriding powers in the passage of Money Bills.

Procedures for raising Matters of Public Interest

79. *Are members of Rajya Sabha guided by Rules of Conduct?*

Yes, members of the House are guided by the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States. Similarly, members of Lok Sabha are guided by the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

80. *What is Calling Attention?*

Rule 180 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha provides that a member may with the previous permission of the Chairman call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may make a brief Statement or ask for time to make a Statement at a later hour or date. The Calling Attention is an Indian innovation in the parliamentary procedure.

81. *What is Special Mention?*

Under Rules 180A-180E, a member may mention a matter of public importance in the House; he has to give a notice in writing along with the text of the matter to be raised not exceeding 250 words. No member is permitted to make more than one Special Mention during a week.

82. *What is a Motion?*

Rules 167-174 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha provide that no discussion on a matter of general public interest shall take place except on a motion made with the consent of the Chairman. The term 'motion' in parliamentary parlance means any proposal made for the purpose of eliciting a decision of the House. It is phrased in such a way that, if passed, it will imply the will of the House.

83. *What are the types of Motion?*

Motions may be classified as Substantive or Subsidiary. A substantive motion is a self-contained proposal made in reference to a subject which the mover wishes to bring forward. A subsidiary motion, as its name suggests, relates to a substantive motion.

84. *What is No-Day-Yet-Named-Motion?*

If the Chairman admits notice of a motion and no date is fixed for the discussion on such a motion, it is immediately notified in the Bulletin Part- II under the heading 'No-Day-Yet-Named-Motion' date and time is allotted for discussion on such motions by the Chairman, in consultation with the Leader of the House after taking into consideration the state of business before the House.

85. *What is a Resolution?*

The House declares its own opinions and purposes by its resolutions. Every question, when agreed to, by the House, assumes the form of either a resolution or an order. Resolutions may be categorized as: Private Members' Resolutions (which are moved by a member not a Minister); Government

Resolutions (which are moved by Ministers); and Statutory Resolutions (which are moved in pursuance of a provision contained in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament).

86. *What is the President's Address?*

The President of India addresses both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after a new Lok Sabha has been constituted and also at the commencement of the first session each year. The matters referred to in the President's Address to the Houses are discussed on a Motion of Thanks moved by a member and seconded by another member.

87. *How many times Motion of Thanks on President's Address have been amended by the Rajya Sabha?*

The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address has been adopted in amended form by the Rajya Sabha on five occasions *i.e.* 30 January 1980, 29 December 1989, 12 March 2001, 3 March 2015 and 9 March 2016.

88. *What is point of order?*

A Point of Order is a point relating to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of Procedure or such articles of the Constitution to regulate the business of the House and submitted to the decision of the Chair. Rule 258 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha makes a provision to enable a member to raise a point of order. Any member may at any time submit a point of order for the decision of the Chairman, but in doing so, shall confine himself to stating the point. The Chairman shall decide all points of order which may arise, and his decision shall be final.

89. *What is Dilatory Motion?*

Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha explains Dilatory motion. At any time after a motion has been made, a member may move that the debate on the motion be adjourned. If the Chairman is of opinion that a motion for the adjournment of a debate is an abuse of the rules of the Council, he may either forthwith put the question thereon from the Chair or decline to propose the question.

90. *What is a Short Duration Discussion?*

Rules 176-179 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha explains about short duration discussion. If the Chairman is satisfied, after calling for such information from the member who has given notice and from the Minister as he may consider necessary, that the matter is urgent and is of sufficient public importance to be raised in the Council at

an early date, he may admit the notice and in consultation with the Leader of the Council fix the date on which such matter may be taken up for discussion and allow such time for discussion, not exceeding two and a half hours, as he may consider appropriate in the circumstances.

91. *When was the issue of environmental degradation and climate change raised in the Rajya Sabha and by whom?*

The issues of environmental degradation and climate change were first raised during the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the First Session of Rajya Sabha on 21 May 1952 by Shri Krishna Moorthy Rao and Shri T. S. Pattabiraman respectively.

92. *How does a member ask a question in Rajya Sabha?*

He has to give a notice about it on a prescribed form at least 15 days before he wants to ask question.

93. *What are starred and unstarred questions?*

A question for which an oral answer is desired by a member is distinguished by an asterisk and is called a starred question. A question without an asterisk is called unstarred and is admitted for written answers.

94. *What are supplementary questions? How many are allowed?*

Supplementary questions are brief questions arising out of the main question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given. The Chairman may, in his discretion, ask any member who raises his hand to put a supplementary question but he is not obliged to permit every such member. In order to regulate the number of supplementaries the Chairman has given rulings from time to time. At present, only two supplementaries are allowed to the main questioner and three more Members are allowed to ask one supplementary each.

95. *What happens when the member in whose name the starred question is listed refuses to put the question or is absent?*

If on a question being called it is not put or the member in whose name it stands is absent, the Chairman shall direct that the answer to it be given. The Chairman may allow three supplementaries to that question.

96. *What are Short Notice Questions?*

Short Notice Questions are questions relating to a matter of public importance asked for oral answer by members with shorter notice than fifteen clear days. If the Chairman is of opinion that the question is of an urgent nature, the Minister concerned is asked whether he is in a position to reply to the

question at a shorter notice and, if so, on which date. If the Minister concerned is in a position to reply, such question is answered on a day to be indicated by him and at the time to be determined by the Chairman.

97. What happens to the listed questions when Question Hour is suspended due to some contingencies?

The starred questions listed for that day are treated as unstarred questions and the answers together with those of the unstarred questions are deemed to be laid on the Table of the House for that day.

98. Who decides the admissibility of questions?

The Chairman, Rajya Sabha decides whether a question or a part thereof is or is not admissible. He may disallow any question or a part thereof when, in his opinion, it is an abuse of the right of questioning or calculated to obstruct or prejudicially affect the procedure of the House or is in contravention of the rules under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). The Chairman may direct that a question be placed on the list of questions for answers, on a date later than that specified by a member in his notice, if he is of the opinion that a longer period is necessary to decide whether the question is or is not admissible.

99. What is the total limit of questions admitted for a particular day?

The total number of questions to be admitted for any one day shall be limited to 175, of which 15 would be for oral answers and 160 for written answers.

Parliamentary Privileges

100. What are parliamentary privileges?

Each House of Parliament collectively and the members individually, enjoy certain powers and privileges without which they may not be able to discharge their functions, efficiently and effectively. Article 105 of the Constitution deals with such powers, privileges and immunities of the Houses of Parliament, members and the Committees. As per this article, these privileges are freedom of speech in Parliament; immunity to a member from any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any Committee thereof; immunity to a person from proceedings in any court in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report, paper, votes or proceedings. The provisions shall also apply in relation to persons who by virtue of the Constitution, have the right to speak in and otherwise to take part in the

proceedings of a House of Parliament or any Committee thereof as they apply in relation to Members of Parliament.

101. *Are the parliamentary privileges codified in India?*

No law so far has been enacted by Parliament (and State Legislatures) to define the powers, privileges and immunities available to each House, its members and Committees thereof.

102. *What is the difference between the 'Breach of Privilege' and 'Contempt of the House'?*

When any of the privileges either of the members individually or of the House in its collective capacity are disregarded or attacked by any individual or authority, the offence is called a breach of privilege. Any obstruction or impediment put before Houses or its members in due discharge of their duties, or which have a tendency of producing such result, may amount to contempt of the House.

103. *What is the procedure regarding a question of privilege?*

The procedure for dealing with a question of privilege is laid down in Rules 187-203 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha. A question of privilege may either be considered and decided by the House itself or it may be referred to the Committee of Privileges by the Chairman for examination, investigation and report.

MPLADS

104. *What is MPLADS?*

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme or MPLADS was announced in Parliament on 23 December 1993 to enable Members of Parliament to create durable community assets for the betterment of the public at large. Under the Scheme, each Member of Parliament in the case of Lok Sabha can suggest to the District Collector, for works to the tune of Rs. 5 crores per annum to be taken up in his/her constituency. A member of Rajya Sabha can recommend works in one or more districts in the State where he/she has been elected. Nominated members can select any district from any State in the country for implementation of their choice of work done under the Scheme. The member has to choose a Nodal District for implementation and release of the MPLADS funds.

105. *When was the Committee on MPLADS formed?*

It was formed on 5 September 1998. It examines various issues pertaining to the implementation and monitoring of various projects under the MPLAD

Scheme in coordination with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

106. *Who is the Chairman of the Committee on MPLADS?*

The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the Chairman of the Committee on MPLADS.

107. *Can Members contribute funds outside their constituency or States/ Union Territories?*

Yes, a Member of Parliament can recommend eligible works upto a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs in a financial year. Such a gesture would be seen as promoting national unity, harmony and fraternity among the people. The guidelines on MPLAD Scheme also provide that in the event of 'calamity of severe nature' in any part of the country, an MP can recommend works upto a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh for the affected district.

Media and Rajya Sabha

108. *Are the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha televised?*

Yes, both the Houses have their separate and independent 24 x 7 television channels owned and operated by them.

109. *Are live webcast of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha available?*

Yes, both Houses of Parliament have their comprehensive websites. Live webcast of Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV) has been available since December 2011. Live webcast of Rajya Sabha proceedings is also available through RSTV during Session period. Simultaneous webcast of the channel is available on the homepage of Rajya Sabha *i.e.* www.rajyasabha.nic.in, RSTV *i.e.* www.rstv.nic.in as well as on You Tube.

Right to Information and Rajya Sabha Secretariat

110. *Whether the functioning of Rajya Sabha Secretariat comes under the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005?*

Yes, the functioning of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat comes under the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005. To facilitate the supply of information to anyone desirous of getting it, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has made rules for the Secretariat as per Section 28 of the Act.

111. *Who are the persons to be contacted and what are their details?*

Persons to be contacted in this regard are as below:—

1. Shri S. K. Verma
Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor
(Appellate Authority in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat)
202, IInd Floor, Parliament House Annexe
New Delhi-110001
Tel. No. 011-23034202
Telefax: 011-23011245
E-mail: suresh.verma@sansad.nic.in
2. Shri Arun Sharma
Director (O) & Central Public Information Officer (CPIO)
Room No. 07, Parliament House Annexe
New Delhi-110001
Tel. No. 011-23035368
E-mail: arunsharma@sansad.nic.in
3. Shri Vinay Shankar Singh
Joint Director &
Central Assistant Public Information Officer (CAPIO)
222, IInd Floor, Parliament House Annexe
New Delhi - 110001
Tel. No. 011-23035446
E-mail: vinay.ss@sansad.nic.in

Parliamentary Forums

112. *What is the Rajya Sabha Forum on Panchayati Raj?*

The Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha constituted the Rajya Sabha Forum on Panchayati Raj on 16th February, 2016 with the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the *ex-officio* President of the Forum and the Minister of Panchayati Raj as the *ex-officio* Vice-President of the Forum. The Forum shall consist of not more than 15 Members of Rajya Sabha, to be nominated by the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, from amongst members who have special knowledge or keen interest in the subject. The term of the members in the Forum shall be co-terminus with their membership of the Rajya Sabha. Besides, experts in the field of Panchayati Raj may be associated as Special Invitees who may share their views/present papers during the meetings of the Forum.

113. *What are the objectives of the Rajya Sabha Forum on Panchayati Raj?*

The Forum shall (i) identify problems and have focused deliberations relating to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs); (ii) discuss strategies to strengthen PRIs; and (iii) provide a platform to Parliamentarians for exchange of ideas, views, experiences, expertise and best practices in relation to functioning and strengthening of PRIs. The Forum will not interfere with or encroach upon the jurisdiction of the concerned Ministry/Department or Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Contacting Rajya Sabha

114. *Where do I get more information on members of Rajya Sabha?*

The Rajya Sabha Website <<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>> has a section on members which has a search form for getting information on members.

115. *How can I get in touch with a member of Rajya Sabha?*

The Rajya Sabha Website <<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>> gives a list of Addresses and E-mails of members of Rajya Sabha.

116. *Where do I get information regarding the sessions of Rajya Sabha?*

The Rajya Sabha Website <<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>> has a section each on Business and Legislation which contains Sessional Information.

117. *Whether the Rajya Sabha website is available in Hindi?*

Yes. Its address is <<http://rajyasabhahindi.nic.in/rshindi/hindipage.asp>>

118. *Who maintains the Rajya Sabha Website and how do I send a feedback?*

The Rajya Sabha Website is designed and maintained by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Parliament Informatics Division for the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The Website has a facility for sending feedback regarding the Website.

119. *Where can I get a copy of a Committee Report?*

The texts of Committee Reports are available in <<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>> and <<http://loksabha.nic.in>> under the Section on Committees.

120. *Where can I get a copy of an Act of Parliament?*

Parliamentary Bills Information System is available in the Rajya Sabha Website under the section <Business> <Legislation>. The page contains information regarding the legislative journey of a Bill till the Assent Date/ Gazette Notification/Act No.

The Acts and Bills Section of the Parliament Library have copies of all Central Acts since 1836 for reference purpose. But physical access to the Library is restricted.

121. Table showing current status of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha

Rajya Sabha	Lok Sabha
The composition prescribed strength of Rajya Sabha in the Constitution is 250 which include 238 elected members and 12 nominated members.	The prescribed strength of Lok Sabha in the Constitution is 552 which include 530 directly elected members from States; 20 representing the Union Territories; and 2 from the Anglo-Indian Community.
The present strength of Rajya Sabha is 245, of which 233 are elected and 12 are nominated. One-third of the members retire every second year.	The present strength of Lok Sabha is 545, of which 530 are directly elected members from States; 13 are representing the Union Territories; and 2 are from the Anglo-Indian Community.
The term of a member of Rajya Sabha is 6 years. A member elected in a bye-election serves for the remainder of the term of the vacancy caused.	The term of Lok Sabha is 5 years. (unless dissolved earlier)
The Chairman of Rajya Sabha is Shri M. Hamid Ansari.	The Speaker of Lok Sabha is Smt. Sumitra Mahajan.
The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha is Prof. P. J. Kurien.	The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha is Dr. M. Thambi Durai.
The Leader of the House is Shri Arun Jaitley.	The Leader of the House is Shri Narendra Modi.
The Leader of the Opposition is Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad.	The Leader of the largest Opposition Party is Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.
The Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha is Shri Shumsher K. Sheriff.	The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha is Shri Anoop Mishra.
The party with maximum number of members in the House is the Indian National Congress.	The party with maximum number of members in the House is the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Rajya Sabha	Lok Sabha
There are 26 women members constituting 10.69% of the total members.	There are 66 women members constituting 12.40% of the total members.
The oldest member is Shri Ram Jethmalani, aged 92.	The oldest member is Shri Lal Krishna Advani, aged 88.
The youngest member is Shrimati M.C. Mary Kom, aged 33.	The youngest member is Shri Dushyant Chautala, aged 27.

122. Table showing DRSCs under Rajya Sabha and the Ministries/ Departments under their purview

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	Ministries/Departments
1.	Committee on Commerce	Commerce and Industry
2.	Committee on Home Affairs	Home Affairs Department of North-Eastern Region
3.	Committee on Human Resource Development	Human Resource Development Youth Affairs and Sports, Women and Child Development
4.	Committee on Industry	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME)
5.	Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	Science and Technology Space Earth Sciences Atomic Energy Environment, Forests and Climate Change
6.	Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture	Civil Aviation Road Transport and Highways Shipping Culture Tourism
7.	Committee on Health and Family Welfare	Health and Family Welfare Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
8.	Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice	Law and Justice Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

**123. Table showing DRSCs under Lok Sabha and the Ministries/
Departments under their purview**

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	Ministries/Departments
1.	Committee on Agriculture	Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Food Processing Industries
2.	Committee on Information Technology	Communications and Information Technology Information & Broadcasting
3.	Committee on Defence	Defence
4.	Committee on Energy	New and Renewable Energy Power
5.	Committee on External Affairs	External Affairs Overseas Indian Affairs
6.	Committee on Finance	Finance Corporate Affairs Planning Statistics and Programme Implementation
7.	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
8.	Committee on Labour	Labour and Employment Textiles Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
9.	Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas	Petroleum & Natural Gas
10.	Committee on Railways	Railways
11.	Committee on Urban Development	Urban Development Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	Ministries/Departments
12.	Committee on Water Resources	Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
13.	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	Chemicals and Fertilizers
14.	Committee on Rural Development	Rural Development Drinking Water and Sanitation Panchayati Raj
15.	Committee on Coal and Steel	Coal Mines Steel
16.	Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	Social Justice and Empowerment Tribal Affairs Minority Affairs