U. G. SYLLABUS - NEP 2020

Political Science

FYUG (NEP) 1st Semester

PLS: SEC 101: LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

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UNIT-1

People's Representatives and their Powers and Functions: Members of the Parliament and State Legislatures.

2-4 Marks

1. **List four power of the Lok Sabha.**
   Ans:- Four main powers of the Lok Sabha are: legislative, financial, executive, and constituent powers.
   Four Powers of the Lok Sabha

- Legislative Powers: Lok Sabha makes laws for the country. It debates, passes bills, and plays a central role in the legislative process.
- Financial Powers: Money bills and the Union Budget can only be introduced and passed in the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations, but Lok Sabha has the final authority.
- Executive Powers: The Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. It can remove the government by passing a no-confidence motion.
- Constituent Powers: Lok Sabha participates in amending the Constitution, with its approval needed for important constitutional changes.

  These four powers make the Lok Sabha central to India's parliamentary system and governance.

2. **List any four powers and functions of the Rajya Sabha.**
   Ans:- Four important powers and functions of the Rajya Sabha are as follows:

- Legislative Powers: The Rajya Sabha shares the law-making function with the Lok Sabha. Ordinary bills can originate in either house and must be passed by both. The Rajya Sabha can review,

debate, and suggest amendments to most bills, ensuring thorough deliberation.

- Constitutional Powers: Any amendment to the Constitution must be approved by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha with a special majority, making the Rajya Sabha essential to constitutional changes.
- Special Powers (Article 249): The Rajya Sabha can empower Parliament to legislate on matters in the State List by passing a resolution with a two-thirds majority, if it considers such legislation necessary in the national interest.
- Electoral and Impeachment Functions: Members of the Rajya Sabha participate in the election of the President and Vice President and participate in the impeachment process of the President and judges of higher courts.

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3. Write four differences between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Ans:- Four key differences between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are:

- Election Method: Lok Sabha members are directly elected by the people of India, while Rajya Sabha members are indirectly elected by the state legislative assemblies.
- Tenure: Lok Sabha members serve for five years and the house can be dissolved, whereas Rajya Sabha is a permanent body; one-third of its members retire every two years but it never dissolves completely.
- Powers Over Finance: Only the Lok Sabha can introduce and pass Money Bills, while the Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations regarding them.

- Representation: Lok Sabha represents the people of India at large, while Rajya Sabha represents the states and union territories, ensuring federal representation.

4. **Explain the legislative powers of the Parliament.**
   Ans:- The main legislative powers of the Indian Parliament are as follows:

- Parliament makes laws on subjects in the Union List for the entire country and can also legislate on the Concurrent List, overriding state laws if conflicts arise.
- It can make laws on State List subjects in special circumstances, such as during national emergency, on Rajya Sabha's resolution, or to implement international agreements.
- Parliament also holds residuary legislative powers, allowing it to make laws on matters not enumerated in any of the three lists (Union, State, Concurrent).

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5. **Mention four qualifications required to become a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).**
   Ans:- Four qualifications required to become a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) are:
   1. The person must be a citizen of India.
   2. The minimum age requirement is 25 years.
   3. The candidate must be registered as a voter in any parliamentary constituency in India.
   4. The person should not hold any office of profit under the Government of India.

6. **What are the financial powers of the Parliament?**

Ans:- The financial powers of the Parliament are:

1. Parliament approves the Union Budget, determining the annual estimates of receipts and expenditures of the government.
2. Only Parliament can authorize the imposition and collection of taxes.
3. The executive cannot spend any public money without parliamentary approval.
4. Parliament controls supplementary grants if the authorized budget amount is insufficient and monitors government spending through committees like the Public Accounts Committee.

7. **Explain any four powers and functions of the State Legislative Assembly.**

Ans:- Four important powers and functions of the State Legislative Assembly are:

1. Legislative Power: It has the authority to make laws on subjects in the State List and Concurrent List. Money bills can only be introduced here.
2. Financial Power: The Assembly approves the state budget and other financial matters, controlling state expenditure and taxation.
3. Electoral and Constitutional Functions: It participates in the election of the President of India and gives approval for constitutional amendments that concern the states.
4. Executive Control: The Assembly can hold the state government accountable through motions like no-confidence, forcing resignation if the government loses majority support.

8. **State four disqualifications of a Member of Parliament.**

Ans:- Four disqualifications of a Member of Parliament are:

1. Holding any office of profit under the Government of India or a state government, except those exempted by law.
2. Being declared of unsound mind by a competent court.
3. Being an undischarged insolvent (unable to pay debts).
4. Not being a citizen of India, or voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign country or showing allegiance to a foreign state.

9. Write a short note on the relationship between the Council of Ministers and the Parliament.

Ans:- The relationship between the Council of Ministers and the Parliament is based on the principle of collective responsibility. The Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, is responsible to the Lok Sabha and must maintain its confidence to stay in power. It formulates and implements government policies and legislation, presenting them to Parliament for approval. Ministers can participate in Parliamentary debates and answer questions, ensuring accountability. If the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers, it must resign, demonstrating Parliament's control over the executive.

10. Explain the role of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Ans:- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha plays a vital role in the functioning of the House. Key roles include:

- Maintaining order and decorum during debates and ensuring that parliamentary rules and procedures are followed.
- Deciding who may speak and allowing members to express their views in an orderly manner.
- Being the final authority on interpreting constitutional and legislative provisions within the Lok Sabha.

- Deciding whether a bill is a Money Bill, a decision that is final and binding.
- Presiding over joint sessions of both Houses of Parliament to resolve deadlocks.
- Exercising disciplinary powers, including suspending members for disorderly conduct.
- Chairing important parliamentary committees and arranging the business schedule of the House.

8-10 marks

1. **Composition of the Parliament of India.**

Ans:- The Parliament of India is the central law-making authority of the country, integral to the democratic framework. It embodies both federal and national characteristics by providing a forum for the states (Rajya Sabha) and the direct representation of citizens (Lok Sabha), with the President acting as the constitutional head.
Components of Indian Parliament

- President: The President is not a member of either house, but is an inseparable part of Parliament. The President's role includes summoning and proroguing sessions, dissolving the Lok Sabha, and granting assent to bills before they become law. The office acts as a link between the two houses and ensures constitutional procedures are followed.
- Rajya Sabha (Council of States): This is the upper house, representing the states and union territories. According to the Constitution, its maximum strength is 250, comprising up to 238 members representing states and union territories, and 12 members nominated for their expertise in literature, science, art, and social service. Currently, the Rajya Sabha has 245 members: 233 elected and 12 nominated. The members are elected by the elected

members of State Legislative Assemblies using proportional representation. Rajya Sabha is a permanent house with one-third retiring every two years.

- Lok Sabha (House of the People): The lower house directly represents the Indian people, with members elected through universal adult suffrage. The Constitution envisages a maximum strength of 552, but currently, it has 543 members: these include 524 from states and 19 from union territories. Seats are distributed based on population to ensure proportional representation. Certain seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (84) and Scheduled Tribes (47). The Lok Sabha's tenure is five years unless dissolved earlier by the President; its members must be at least 25 years old and meet constitutional eligibility criteria.

Constitutional Provisions

- Relevant provisions are laid out in Articles 79 to 122 of the Constitution.
- The Parliament is responsible for legislative, financial, executive control, constitutional amendment, and electoral functions.

The Parliament of India, as defined by the Constitution, consists of the President, Rajya Sabha, and Lok Sabha, forming the backbone of the legislative framework. Its bicameral nature ensures checks and balances, representation of both states and citizens, and upholds the principles of Indian democracy.

2. **Describe the qualifications required to become a Member of Parliament (MP).**

Ans:- The qualifications for MPs uphold democratic principles and prevent unsuitable individuals from becoming lawmakers. These criteria balance eligibility with necessary safeguards against conflict, insolvency, or criminality.

Constitutional Qualifications

- Citizen of India: The candidate must be an Indian citizen and must subscribe an oath or affirmation as laid down in the Third Schedule of the Constitution.
- Minimum Age: For Lok Sabha, the minimum age is 25 years; for Rajya Sabha, it is 30 years.
- Other Qualifications: Parliament may prescribe further qualifications by law.

Statutory Qualifications

- Electoral Rolls: The candidate must be a registered voter in any Indian parliamentary constituency, and for reserved SC/ST seats, must belong to that community.
- Deposit for Candidacy: Candidates must make a security deposit as specified in election laws (usually ₹25,000).

Disqualifications

The Constitution and the Representation of People Act specify grounds for disqualification, vital for maintaining the sanctity of Parliament.

- Holding an office of profit under government (unless exempted by law).
- Being of unsound mind declared so by a competent court.
- Being an undischarged insolvent.
- Ceasing to be an Indian citizen or voluntarily acquiring foreign citizenship.
- Conviction for certain crimes, corrupt practices, or promoting enmity; imprisonment for two or more years.
- Dismissal from government service due to corruption/disloyalty.
- Failure to lodge election expense accounts or involvement in government contracts with substantial government share.

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Qualification to be a Member of Parliament requires Indian citizenship, age compliance, voter registration, adherence to prescribed laws, and absence of constitutional disqualifications. These provisions uphold democracy and Parliament's credibility by ensuring responsible and qualified representation.

3. **Explain the powers and functions of the Lok Sabha.**

Ans:- The qualifications for MPs uphold democratic principles and prevent unsuitable individuals from becoming lawmakers. These criteria balance eligibility with necessary safeguards against conflict, insolvency, or criminality.

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4. Explain the powers and functions of the Rajya Sabha.

Ans:- The Rajya Sabha represents the states and union territories in Parliament, offering a chamber where long-term interests and federal perspectives are protected. Its powers are designed to complement and check those of the Lok Sabha, ensuring smooth governance and a federation-friendly approach.

Legislative Powers

- The Rajya Sabha shares equal legislative powers with the Lok Sabha for ordinary bills. A bill can be introduced in either house, but must be approved by both to become law. In case of deadlock, a joint sitting is held.
- Money bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha may suggest amendments but the Lok Sabha can accept or reject

these. If Rajya Sabha does not act within 14 days, the bill is deemed passed.

Federal and Special Powers

- Under Article 249, Rajya Sabha can empower Parliament to legislate on State List subjects for national interest by passing a two-thirds majority resolution.
- Rajya Sabha may also pass resolutions to create or abolish All India Services by a two-thirds majority.

Constitutional and Judicial Functions

- Constitutional amendment bills must be passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha by a two-thirds majority, giving Rajya Sabha an equal role.
- Both houses participate in the impeachment of the President and removal of judges and other constitutional offices.

Executive and Control Functions

- While the executive is primarily accountable to Lok Sabha (which alone can pass a no-confidence motion), Rajya Sabha members question, debate, and scrutinize policies, exercising indirect control over the government.
- Some ministers including the Prime Minister can be members of Rajya Sabha.

Electoral Functions

- Rajya Sabha members take part in elections of the President and Vice President of India, and elect the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha among themselves.
- It also plays a procedural role in electing other key constitutional posts.

Miscellaneous Functions

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- Approval of presidential ordinances, ratification of emergencies, and modification of Supreme Court/high court jurisdiction are performed jointly with Lok Sabha.
- The Rajya Sabha, as a permanent house, ensures continuity in parliamentary affairs, unaffected by general elections.

The Rajya Sabha is a stabilizing force in the Indian parliamentary system, safeguarding the interests of states, facilitating detailed legislative scrutiny, and providing constitutional balance. Its exclusive and joint powers solidify India's federal structure and democratic traditions.

5. Discuss the procedure of passing an ordinary bill in Parliament.

Ans:- An ordinary bill can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha by a minister or any member of the House. The introducer must seek the leave (permission) of the House. Once leave is granted, the bill's title and objectives are read aloud, and the bill is then published in the Gazette of India. No discussion or voting takes place at this stage.

Second Reading

This stage has two parts:

- General Discussion: The members discuss the bill's general principles.
- Committee Stage and Consideration: The bill may be referred to a Select or Joint Committee for detailed examination. The committee vets the bill clause-by-clause, hears suggestions, and may propose amendments. After the committee submits its report, the House considers the bill clause-by-clause, voting on each and any proposed amendments.

Third Reading

A motion is moved to pass the bill as amended or originally introduced. Debate is restricted to arguments in favor or against the bill, but no amendments are allowed except for formal or minor ones. The bill is passed if it receives a simple majority of the members present and voting.

Consideration by the Other House

The bill then goes to the other House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha), where it undergoes the same three readings as in the originating House. The second House can:

- Pass the bill without changes,
- Reject the bill,
- Propose amendments and return it to the first House, or
- Take no action (which may lead to further parliamentary proceedings).

In case of disagreement between the two Houses, a joint sitting of both Houses may be called to resolve the deadlock, where a majority vote decides.

Assent of the President

After both Houses pass the bill, it is sent to the President of India for assent. The President can:

- Give assent, after which the bill becomes law,
- Withhold assent,
- Or return the bill (except a Money Bill) with recommendations for reconsideration. If both Houses pass the bill again with or without amendments, the President must give assent.

Thus, passing an ordinary bill requires a simple majority in both Houses of Parliament through a process of introduction, detailed discussion and amendment, and completion with the President's assent, ensuring democratic scrutiny before the bill becomes law.

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6. **Explain the financial powers of Parliament, focusing on the Union Budget.**

Ans:- The financial powers of the Indian Parliament are extensive and crucial for the country's governance, focusing significantly on the Union Budget. The process and powers can be explained as follows:

Financial Powers of Parliament

1. Custodian of Public Money: Parliament controls all public funds. The government cannot levy taxes or spend money without parliamentary approval, ensuring financial accountability and legislative oversight.
2. Union Budget Approval: The Union Budget, prepared annually by the Cabinet (mainly the Finance Ministry), outlines the government's revenue and expenditure plans for the fiscal year. It must be presented before and approved by both Houses of Parliament. No government expenditure can be made without this approval.
3. Money Bills: According to Article 110 of the Constitution, Money Bills — dealing with taxation, borrowing, or expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India — can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Rajya Sabha can discuss and suggest amendments but cannot reject or amend these bills, preserving Lok Sabha's primacy in financial matters.
4. Taxation Authority: Parliament has the exclusive right to impose taxes and authorize tax changes, thereby controlling the country's revenue streams.
5. Financial Committees: Parliamentary committees such as the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee scrutinize government spending to ensure judicious and transparent use of public funds.

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6. Article 112 - Annual Financial Statement: As mandated by the Constitution, the President causes the Annual Financial Statement (the Union Budget) to be laid before Parliament, enabling formal legislative oversight of the government's finances.
   Focus on the Union Budget Process

- The Union Budget is presented yearly by the finance minister in Parliament, typically on the first day of February, before the new financial year begins on April 1.
- It includes detailed proposals for government receipts (taxes, duties) and expenditures, reflecting policy priorities and economic planning.
- Parliament debates and approves the Budget; this approval is necessary before government spending begins.
- The Appropriation Bill and Finance Bill are key legislative documents associated with the Budget, requiring parliamentary passage.
- Parliamentary approval grants legitimacy to government spending and taxation, maintaining democratic control over national finances.

   Parliament's financial powers, especially over the Union Budget, empower it to control the nation's purse. This system enforces fiscal discipline, transparency, and democratic accountability, acting as a critical check on the executive's financial management.

7. **Describe the composition and powers of a State Legislature.**
   Ans:- The State Legislature in India plays a vital role in the state's governance by making laws, controlling finances, and overseeing the state government. It derives its authority from the Constitution of India, particularly from Articles 168 to 212, which define both

its structure and powers. The legislature ensures democratic decision-making at the state level.

Composition of the State Legislature

The State Legislature consists of the Governor and one or two houses:

- Unicameral Legislature: Present in most states, comprises the Governor and the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) only.
- Bicameral Legislature: Exists in six states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar), consisting of the Governor, Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), and Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).

The Legislative Assembly has between 60 and 500 members (except special cases like Goa, Sikkim, and Puducherry with fewer). Members are directly elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise from territorial constituencies, with representation adjusted according to the population after each census.

The Legislative Council, where it exists, is a permanent body with members indirectly elected through various constituencies such as local authorities, graduates, teachers, and nominated members. Its size cannot exceed one-third of the Legislative Assembly and must be no less than 40 members.

Powers of the State Legislature

- Legislative Powers: It can enact laws on state subjects listed in the State List and Concurrent List of the Constitution. Bills can be introduced, debated, amended, and passed by both houses (if bicameral) or by the Assembly alone.
- Financial Powers: It controls state finances through approval of the state budget, taxation, and expenditure. Money bills can only be introduced in the Legislative Assembly.

- Executive Powers: It holds the state government accountable through motions, questions, and committees. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly.
- Control over Governor: The Governor summons, prorogues, and dissolves the legislature as per constitutional provisions.
- Other Powers: The legislature can amend the state's laws (subject to Constitution limits), and in certain circumstances, Parliament may intervene, but the state legislature remains primarily sovereign in state matters.

  The State Legislature is a cornerstone of democratic governance at the state level, with structures adapted to state-specific needs. Through its composition and powers, it ensures representation, makes laws, exercises financial control, and holds the state executive accountable. The dual structure in some states combines both popular representation and indirect oversight, making it a balanced and integral part of India's federal system.

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8. Explain the powers and functions of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Ans:- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the presiding officer and highest authority of the house, constitutionally mandated under Articles 93 to 97. The Speaker is elected by members of the Lok Sabha and is expected to act impartially to maintain decorum, regulate proceedings, and ensure that parliamentary business is conducted in an orderly and democratic manner. The office symbolizes the spirit of parliamentary democracy, safeguarding the rights of all members irrespective of their party affiliation.

Powers and Functions of the Speaker

- Maintaining Order and Decorum: The Speaker enforces discipline in the house by ensuring members follow parliamentary rules.

They can warn, suspend, or take disciplinary action against unruly members to maintain decorum.

- Conduct of Proceedings: The Speaker presides over Lok Sabha sessions, decides the agenda, calls members to speak, and ensures that debates are conducted fairly and efficiently.
- Casting Vote: The Speaker does not vote in the first instance but exercises a casting vote to break a tie, typically used to maintain the status quo in a deadlock situation.
- Final Authority on Money Bills: The Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill or not, and this decision is final. Since money bills can only originate in the Lok Sabha, this power is significant in financial legislation.
- Disqualification of Members: The Speaker has the authority to decide on disqualification of MPs on grounds of defection under the anti-defection law, which helps maintain ethical standards in the house.
- Presiding over Joint Sessions: When the two Houses of Parliament meet jointly, the Speaker presides, playing a key role in resolving deadlocks on legislation.
- Committee Appointments: The Speaker plays an active role in nominating members and chairpersons to various parliamentary committees such as the Rules Committee and Business Advisory Committee, strengthening parliamentary oversight.
- Ensuring Democratic Functioning: The Speaker facilitates motions such as no-confidence and adjournment motions and regulates voting procedures, ensuring democratic rights of members are preserved.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is indispensable for the effective functioning of the lower house of Parliament. By combining authority with impartiality, the Speaker upholds the integrity of the

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house, manages legislative business efficiently, and ensures democratic processes are respected. This office is crucial for maintaining the balance between the government and the opposition within India's vibrant parliamentary democracy.

9. **Describe the role of Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in a democracy.**
Ans:- In a democratic system, representation is essential for ensuring that government policies reflect the interests of the people. MPs and MLAs are elected representatives at the national and state levels, respectively, entrusted with legislative, representative, and oversight functions. They act as a link between the electorate and the government, making their roles pivotal in sustaining democratic governance.
Role of Members of Parliament (MPs)
MPs represent citizens in the Parliament and have legislative responsibilities to enact laws on national issues. Their key roles include debating and passing legislation, scrutinizing government policies, and approving the Union Budget. MPs hold the executive accountable through questioning ministers, participating in debates, and moving motions such as no-confidence. They also represent their constituency's concerns, raising local and national issues in the Parliament, thus ensuring the government addresses diverse public interests. Additionally, MPs have an electoral role, such as electing the President and appointing the Speaker of Lok Sabha, which strengthens democratic procedures.
Role of Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)
MLAs perform similar functions at the state level within the Legislative Assembly. They legislate on state subjects and oversee the state government's functioning. MLAs represent local

constituencies, addressing state-specific issues and ensuring that government schemes are tailored to regional needs. They participate actively in budget approval, ask questions to state ministers, and can initiate motions to hold the government accountable. MLAs serve as crucial intermediaries between citizens and the state executive, facilitating development and governance at the grassroots level.

MPs and MLAs play complementary and vital roles in democratic governance. While MPs focus on national legislation and policy oversight, MLAs ensure effective governance and representation at the state level. Together, they uphold the principles of accountability, representation, and law-making that are central to a functional democracy. Their active participation guarantees that the diverse aspirations of citizens are reflected in the government's functioning and policies.

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10. Discuss how Parliament exercises control over the Executive.

Ans:- In a parliamentary system like India's, the Executive is responsible to the Legislature, specifically the Lok Sabha. This principle of collective responsibility mandates that the government must maintain the confidence of the Parliament to stay in power. The Parliament exercises multiple mechanisms to scrutinize and control the actions of the Executive, thereby upholding democratic accountability and ensuring that the Executive's policies and administration align with constitutional principles and public interest.

Mechanisms of Parliamentary Control Over the Executive

One of the principal methods is Parliamentary Questions during the Question Hour, where Members of Parliament can ask ministers about government policies, decisions, and administration, compelling them to provide explanations and justifications. Closely related is the Zero Hour, enabling members to raise important issues without prior notice, keeping the executive responsive.

Debates and Discussions form another vital control tool, including motions like the No-Confidence Motion, which, if passed, forces the government to resign. Other motions such as the Censure Motion, Adjournment Motion, and Calling Attention Motion help highlight government lapses and demand accountability.

Parliament also exercises financial control through budget approvals and scrutiny by committees like the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Estimates Committee, which examine government expenditure. The Parliament ensures that public funds are used efficiently and according to law.

Additionally, parliamentary committees, including departmental standing committees, provide detailed oversight by examining bills, policies, and government functioning, thereby preventing executive arbitrariness. Legislative control is further exercised through the passage of laws, as the Executive cannot enact legislation without Parliament's approval.

The control of the Executive by Parliament is central to India's democratic framework. Through questioning, debates, motions, financial scrutiny, and committee oversight, Parliament ensures the Executive's accountability, fosters transparency, and maintains constitutional governance. However, the effectiveness of such control relies on active participation by members and robust

parliamentary practices, vital for preserving the democratic ethos of the nation.

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UNIT-2

Role and Functions of People's Representatives in Rural and Urban Local Self-Governments.

2-4 Marks

1. **Who is a Sarpanch? Mention two functions of a Gram Panchayat.**

   Ans:- A Sarpanch is the elected head of a Gram Panchayat, which is the grassroots-level institution of local self-government in villages. The Sarpanch acts as the primary representative and leader of the village community and presides over the meetings of the Gram Panchayat.

   Two key functions of a Gram Panchayat are:

1. Implementation of Development Programs: The Gram Panchayat is responsible for executing government schemes related to agriculture, sanitation, education, and rural infrastructure to promote the overall development and welfare of the village.
2. Maintenance of Public Facilities and Services: It oversees the provision and maintenance of essential village services like water supply, drainage, roads, and street lighting, ensuring a clean and healthy environment for the villagers.

2. **What are the functions of the Gram Sabha?**

   Ans:- The functions of the Gram Sabha include:

   1. Approval of Village Plans and Budget: Gram Sabha discusses and approves the annual development plans and budget prepared by the Gram Panchayat for the village's welfare.

2. Monitoring Implementation: It monitors the work of Gram Panchayat, ensuring transparency and accountability in the execution of development schemes and government programs.
3. Selection of Beneficiaries: Gram Sabha plays a role in identifying and selecting beneficiaries for various welfare schemes and government assistance programs in the village.

3. Explain any two roles of a Panchayat Samiti.

Ans:- Two important roles of a Panchayat Samiti are:

1. Coordination and Supervision: The Panchayat Samiti acts as an intermediary between the Gram Panchayats (village level) and the Zila Parishad (district level). It coordinates and supervises the activities of multiple Gram Panchayats within its block, providing guidance and assistance to ensure uniform development and effective implementation of government schemes.
2. Development Planning and Implementation: It prepares and executes development plans for its block, focusing on sectors like agriculture, rural infrastructure, health, education, and sanitation. The Panchayat Samiti implements government programs such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), facilitating rural development and social welfare.

4. State two functions of the Zilla Parishad.

Ans:- Two important functions of the Zilla Parishad are:

1. Planning and Implementation of Development Programs: The Zilla Parishad prepares and executes district-level development plans in sectors like agriculture, education, health, rural infrastructure, and

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social welfare to promote the overall socio-economic upliftment of rural areas.

2. Management of Education and Health Services: It oversees the establishment, maintenance, and supervision of primary and secondary schools, as well as primary health centers and health campaigns in rural areas to ensure quality education and healthcare services.

5. Mention two roles of the Chairperson/President of a Panchayat Samiti.

Ans:- Two key roles of the Chairperson or President of a Panchayat Samiti are:

1. The Chairperson presides over meetings of the Panchayat Samiti and ensures orderly conduct, playing a central role in decision-making at the block level.
2. The Chairperson oversees the implementation of development programmes and schemes within the Samiti area, linking Gram Panchayats with higher levels of rural development administration.

6. Write any two functions of the Municipal Corporation.

Ans:- Two key functions of the Municipal Corporation are:

1. Provision and maintenance of basic civic amenities such as water supply, sanitation, and public health, which includes management of waste disposal and ensuring clean living conditions in urban areas.
2. Urban planning and regulation of land use, including approval and monitoring of construction of buildings, roads, and other public infrastructure to guide orderly city development

7. What is the role of the Mayor in Urban Local Bodies?

Ans:- The Mayor in Urban Local Bodies acts as the ceremonial and executive head of the Municipal Corporation, representing the city in official functions and presiding over Corporation meetings. The Mayor supervises the execution of municipal policies, ensures civic amenities are provided efficiently, and monitors the administration of urban development projects. Additionally, the Mayor serves as a link between the municipal administration and the citizens, voicing public concerns and leading policy initiatives for the city's welfare.

8. List any two functions of the Ward Councillor.

Ans:- Two important functions of a Ward Councillor are:

1. The Ward Councillor represents the interests and needs of residents in their ward, bringing local issues such as sanitation, infrastructure, and basic services to the attention of the Municipal Corporation for redressal and development.
2. The Ward Councillor participates in planning and implementing development works like building roads, parks, or health facilities, and prepares the ward's budget to ensure funds are properly allocated for local welfare.

9. Differentiate between the roles of Gram Panchayat and Municipal Council (any two points).

Ans:- Two key differences between the roles of Gram Panchayat and Municipal Council are:

1. Gram Panchayat functions in rural areas, focusing on the administration and development of villages, including social welfare, sanitation, and basic infrastructure like schools and roads;

whereas Municipal Council governs smaller urban areas and handles urban services such as water supply, street lighting, and urban planning.

2. The Gram Panchayat is directly accountable to the Gram Sabha (village electorate), emphasizing participatory rural governance; in contrast, the Municipal Council members are elected representatives responsible for managing urban local governance under state government regulations, addressing needs of urban populations.

10. Write two ways in which local representatives help in community development.

Ans:- Two ways in which local representatives help in community development are:

1. They identify and bring local issues and needs to the notice of government authorities, helping in effective planning and allocation of resources for infrastructure, public health, and social welfare projects in the community.
2. They mobilize community participation and create awareness about various government schemes and programs, thus enabling better implementation and inclusive development at the grassroots level.

8-10 Marks

1. **Explain the structure of Rural Local Self-Government in India.**

Ans:- The structure of Rural Local Self-Government in India is rooted in the Panchayati Raj system, designed to decentralize governance and empower rural communities in line with the principles of participatory democracy. The idea is to bring government closer to the people and facilitate bottom-up socioeconomic development. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), marking a significant step towards grassroots democracy and rural development.

At the foundation of the system is the Gram Sabha, a general assembly comprised of all registered voters in a village, which directly oversees and participates in decision-making at the local level. The Gram Panchayat, the village council, is the first formal tier; it consists of elected members from the wards of a village and is headed by the Sarpanch or President. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for implementing government schemes, maintaining village infrastructure, sanitation, drinking water supply, and overall welfare.

The second tier is the Panchayat Samiti (also known as Mandal Parishad or Block Panchayat), established at the block or intermediate level. This body works as a federation of the Gram Panchayats in the block and coordinates development activities, manages block-level planning, and oversees the implementation of programs that go beyond the resources or capabilities of individual villages.

The highest tier is the Zila Parishad (District Panchayat), positioned at the district level. The Zila Parishad is responsible for integrating and supervising development plans and activities across the entire district, coordinating between Panchayat Samitis, and acting as a link between the state government and rural

communities. Members of Zila Parishad are elected, and the Chairperson leads the body, ensuring district-wide projects like major roads, health programs, and education initiatives are planned and executed effectively.

All three tiers—Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, and Zila Parishad—are established as elected bodies, with reservations provided for women and marginalized communities to ensure inclusive representation. Their powers, functions, and finances are defined by state laws, guided by the 73rd Amendment and the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, which lists the subjects PRIs can administer.

Rural local self-government in India operates on a three-tier Panchayati Raj system—Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zila Parishad at the district level. This structure empowers rural citizens to participate in local governance, enables coordinated regional development, and supports social justice through democratic decentralization. The system has played a foundational role in strengthening democracy at the grassroots and improving the lives of millions in rural India.

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2. Describe the functions of the Gram Sabha and its importance in rural governance.

Ans:- The Gram Sabha is the foundational institution of rural democracy in India, functioning as the general assembly of all adult residents in a village. It plays a pivotal role in participatory governance, ensuring direct involvement of the community in decision-making at the grassroots level.

Functions of the Gram Sabha

The main functions of the Gram Sabha include:

- Approval and oversight of village development plans, annual budgets, audits, and fund allocations. It monitors resource use and ensures that various government schemes are implemented effectively.
- Selection of beneficiaries for welfare schemes and identification of priorities for local development, especially targeting vulnerable groups within the village.
- Supervision and accountability of the Gram Panchayat, the village's executive body, by reviewing its work, discussing local issues and making recommendations.
- Promotion of community welfare through social initiatives, raising awareness, and addressing local challenges such as sanitation, education, drinking water, and social justice.
- Management and oversight of natural resources and public infrastructure, including roads, wells, forests, and common property resources.
- Dispute resolution for minor village conflicts and grievances, fostering community harmony and unity.
- Maintenance of vital records and assistance in government surveys to ensure accurate village data collection.

Importance in Rural Governance

The Gram Sabha is critical for strengthening grassroots democracy. It transforms governance from a purely representative model to participatory democracy by giving every adult a direct voice in local affairs. Its involvement ensures:

- Greater transparency and accountability, as all plans and budgets of the Gram Panchayat must be approved by the Gram Sabha.
- Empowerment of local residents by giving them the authority to influence policies and resource management specific to their needs.

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- Effective implementation of rural development programs by aligning them with genuine community priorities.
- Promotion of social inclusion, since scheduled meetings of the Gram Sabha require participation across diverse social groups, including women, SCs and STs.

The Gram Sabha is integral to rural self-governance, acting as a platform for participatory democracy and collective decision-making. By empowering villagers to supervise, approve, and shape development and welfare activities, the Gram Sabha ensures transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance at the grassroots, ultimately strengthening the Panchayati Raj system in India.

3. Discuss the role and powers of a Sarpanch in a Gram Panchayat.

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4. Explain the main functions of Panchayat Samiti (Block-level Panchayat).

Ans:- The Panchayat Samiti, also called the Block-level Panchayat, is the intermediate tier of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system in India. Its central purpose is to coordinate and implement rural development, acting as a vital link between Gram Panchayats and the Zilla Parishad.

Main Functions of Panchayat Samiti

- Development Planning and Implementation: The Panchayat Samiti prepares annual and five-year development plans for the block, identifies community needs, prioritizes projects, and oversees their execution in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, water supply, sanitation, and rural infrastructure.
- Implementation of Government Schemes: It implements centrally and state-sponsored welfare programmes, including MGNREGS, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, health and education drives, and other poverty alleviation and social welfare initiatives.
- Administrative Functions: It supervises, guides, and coordinates activities among all Gram Panchayats within its block, ensuring uniform and effective delivery of services and policies.
- Regulatory Functions: The Samiti regulates markets, fairs, public utilities, and local businesses by issuing relevant licenses, permits, and collecting fees or taxes related to its jurisdiction.
- Resource and Infrastructure Management: It plans, executes, and maintains infrastructure projects such as roads, irrigation, wells, drainage, and primary health/education centers. It also manages local natural resources and supports agricultural development.
- Social Welfare and Inclusion: The Panchayat Samiti runs social welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, children, and other marginalized sections of society, aiming for social justice and equality at the block level.

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- Financial Functions: It prepares budgets, allocates funds for development activities, disburses grants to Gram Panchayats, and maintains audited financial records for transparent governance.
- Dispute Resolution: In some states, it resolves minor civil disputes via quasi-judicial bodies, maintaining local harmony and order.
- Coordination with Zilla Parishad: The Panchayat Samiti collects development plans from Gram Panchayats and submits them to the Zilla Parishad, ensuring coordination among all tiers of rural governance.

The Panchayat Samiti is a cornerstone for block-level rural governance, blending planning, implementation, and supervision across all developmental projects and administrative tasks. By successfully bridging the grassroots Gram Panchayat with the district-level Zilla Parishad, it ensures participatory decision-making, effective resource utilization, and inclusive development that meets the genuine needs of rural communities.

5. Describe the composition and powers of Zilla Parishad (District-level body).

Ans:- The Zilla Parishad is the apex institution of the Panchayati Raj system at the district level in India, responsible for overseeing and coordinating rural governance across the entire district. As an elected and representative body, it acts as a bridge between block-level Panchayat Samitis and the state government, ensuring uniform implementation of development schemes and local self-governance.

Composition of Zilla Parishad

- Elected Members: Representatives are elected from divisions or wards within the district, generally for a five-year term. The chairpersons (Pradhans) of all Panchayat Samitis in the district are ex-officio members.

- Reserved Seats: Seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes, and women, proportional to their population.
- Ex-Officio Members: Members of the State Legislative Assembly (MLAs), Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the district, and the heads of Panchayat Samitis serve as ex-officio members, contributing to discussion and supervision.
- Appointed Officials: The District Collector (or Chief Executive Officer, typically an IAS or senior state civil service officer) is an ex-officio executive head, responsible for administration and policy implementation, supported by deputy CEOs and officials from various departments.
- President and Vice President: The Zilla Parishad is led by a President and Vice President, both elected from among its members, who preside over meetings and represent the parishad in official matters.

Powers of Zilla Parishad

- Development Planning and Implementation: The Zilla Parishad formulates district-level development plans, prioritizes various projects, and ensures the execution of welfare schemes in collaboration with block and village-level bodies.
- Coordination and Supervision: It coordinates activities across all Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats in the district, monitors their functioning, and ensures uniform policies and effective resource usage.
- Financial Powers: The Zilla Parishad prepares annual budgets, manages funds received from the state and central governments, levies taxes/tolls as empowered, and oversees audits for transparent governance.
- Social Welfare and Inclusion: The body ensures the proper implementation of programs targeting marginalized groups including SCs, STs, women, and the economically weaker sections.

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- Administrative and Executive Powers: The Zilla Parishad exercises administrative authority over district-level officials, monitors departmental projects (agriculture, irrigation, health, education), and maintains infrastructure and public assets.
- Advisory Role: It advises the state government on effective policy implementation and the needs of rural areas, acting as a conduit for grievances and development proposals from lower tiers.
- Judicial Powers: In some states, minor dispute resolution and quasi-judicial functions may be vested in the Zilla Parishad for local harmony.

The Zilla Parishad is a vital district body that coordinates governance, development, and resource allocation across rural areas. Its representative structure and wide-ranging powers ensure the effective integration of state policies with local self-government, promoting participatory democracy, social justice, and inclusive rural development at the district level.

6. Explain the structure of Urban Local Self-Government.

Ans:- Urban Local Self-Government in India represents a decentralized system of administration where citizens in urban areas elect representatives to manage local affairs. This institutional structure is rooted in democratic principles and backed by the Constitution, aiming to provide efficient and responsive governance to cities and towns.

Structure of Urban Local Self-Government

The framework of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) comprises several tiers and types, each catering to specific urban populations:

- Municipal Corporation (Nagar Nigam): Established in large cities with populations typically exceeding one million. Governed by an elected Council of Councillors led by a Mayor, supported by

Standing Committees for sector-specific issues, and administered by a Municipal Commissioner appointed by the state government.

- Municipality (Nagar Palika/Municipal Council): Formed in medium-sized urban areas (generally under one million population). Headed by an elected President or Chairperson and a council of members, with executive functions managed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) appointed by the state.
- Nagar Panchayat: Created for transitional or developing towns, serving areas moving from rural to urban status. Governed by an elected council led by a Chairperson, responsible for basic civic services and urban planning in smaller towns.
- Special Purpose Bodies: These include Notified Area Committees, Town Area Committees, Port Trusts, Cantonment Boards, Industrial Development Authorities, and Townships. Their members are often nominated, and they serve areas like ports, industrial zones, military cantonments, or rapidly urbanizing zones with specialized needs.

The constitutional basis for this structure comes from the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which established uniform criteria for urban local governments and mandates reservations for socially disadvantaged groups and women in urban governance.

Key Powers and Functions

Urban Local Bodies exercise the following powers and responsibilities:

- Urban planning, infrastructure development, and regulation of land use
- Provision and maintenance of essential services: water supply, sanitation, waste management, public health, street lighting, and roads
- Social and economic development activities, poverty alleviation, and implementation of government schemes

- Collection of local taxes, fees, and tolls, with authority over budgetary allocation and expenditure

Urban Local Self-Government forms the cornerstone of participatory democracy in India's cities and towns, translating constitutional ideals into practical governance and empowering citizens at the grassroots. Through a structured network of Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and Nagar Panchayats, supported by special purpose agencies, it ensures that urban residents actively shape the future of their own communities and access essential civic amenities.

7. Describe the powers and functions of a Municipal Corporation.

Ans:- A Municipal Corporation is the urban local self-government body responsible for governing larger cities, typically with populations exceeding one million. It is entrusted with managing civic infrastructure and providing essential services through elected representatives and appointed officials, functioning under statutory provisions and the constitutional framework of the 74th Amendment Act, 1992.

Powers and Functions of a Municipal Corporation

- Legislative Powers: The Municipal Corporation, through its elected councillors, possesses legislative authority to formulate policies, pass resolutions, and enact by-laws regulating urban governance, public health, sanitation, land-use, building regulations, and civic amenities. These laws are binding within the municipal area and aim to maintain public order and welfare.
- Executive Powers: The executive authority lies mainly with the Municipal Commissioner, appointed by the state government, who implements the policies and decisions of the corporation. The commissioner supervises departments such as health, engineering, sanitation, education, and revenue. The Mayor leads council

meetings but generally has a ceremonial role, except in some states where they have executive powers.

- Administrative Powers: The corporation administers and coordinates various urban services including water supply, drainage, road maintenance, street lighting, solid waste management, public health, and urban planning. It maintains birth and death records and regulates markets, fairs, and sanitation services.
- Financial Powers: The Municipal Corporation has authority to levy taxes such as property tax, advertisement tax, and profession tax. It can collect fees, fines, and rents, enabling it to generate revenue for development and maintenance of urban infrastructure. It prepares annual budgets and manages funds received from state and central governments.
- Developmental Functions: The corporation undertakes urban planning, slum improvement, poverty alleviation, environmental protection, and promotion of cultural and educational activities within the city. It implements government schemes and welfare programmes for marginalized groups.
- Regulatory Functions: The Municipal Corporation monitors construction activities, regulates building plans, issues licenses for trades and businesses, and enforces health and safety standards. It also controls encroachments and pollution within its jurisdiction.
- Social Functions: It promotes public welfare by providing facilities for education, health, maternity, sanitation, parks, and public amenities ensuring equitable urban development.

The Municipal Corporation plays a critical role in India's urban governance by combining legislative, executive, administrative, financial, and developmental powers. As the primary agency managing large cities, Municipal Corporations foster participatory democracy through elected councils while administering essential services and infrastructure, thereby improving urban quality of life and sustainable development.

8. Discuss the role and duties of a Mayor in Urban Local Bodies.

Ans:- The Mayor is the elected head of the Municipal Corporation and serves as the ceremonial and political leader of the city's urban local body. The role of the Mayor is crucial in representing the city, presiding over council meetings, and ensuring democratic governance at the municipal level. Though the executive powers largely rest with the Municipal Commissioner, the Mayor plays a vital role in leadership, coordination, and public representation.

Role and Duties of a Mayor

- Presiding Over Meetings: The Mayor chairs meetings of the Municipal Corporation and its committees, facilitating discussions, maintaining order, and ensuring adherence to rules. The Mayor sets the agenda and guides the decision-making process among councillors.
- Ceremonial Head and First Citizen: The Mayor represents the city in official functions, public events, and civic ceremonies. As the 'first citizen' of the city, the Mayor symbolizes the municipality's identity and acts as a spokesperson for the citizens.
- Political Leadership: The Mayor leads the elected council of councillors, providing political direction and fostering consensus on civic policies, development plans, and municipal priorities. The Mayor advocates for citizen needs and sometimes influences state and central government relations.
- Promotion of Development Initiatives: The Mayor plays a role in promoting urban development projects, social welfare schemes, and environmental initiatives. By mobilizing public opinion and cooperation, the Mayor supports implementation of policies for better civic amenities and inclusive growth.
- Financial Oversight: The Mayor participates in budget discussions and approvals, helping to shape fiscal policies to allocate resources effectively among various municipal functions such as sanitation, health, education, and infrastructure.

- Coordination with Municipal Commissioner: Though not an executive officer, the Mayor collaborates with the Municipal Commissioner, who holds administrative control, to ensure smooth implementation of council decisions and municipal services.
- Public Grievance Redressal: The Mayor listens to public grievances and acts as a bridge between citizens and government machinery, helping to resolve local issues through appropriate municipal mechanisms.
- Representation and Advocacy: The Mayor also represents the city at regional, national, and sometimes international forums, advocating for urban development funds, policy support, and collaboration.

The Mayor is a key figure in urban local governance who, while primarily ceremonial in many states, holds significant political and symbolic authority. By leading the municipal council, representing the city's interests, and promoting development initiatives, the Mayor fosters democratic engagement and ensures the municipal corporation remains responsive and accountable to the urban population.

9. Explain the significance of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in strengthening Local Self-Government.

Ans:- The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, enacted in 1992, are landmark reforms that significantly strengthened local self-government in India by constitutionally recognizing Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural areas and Urban Local Bodies in towns and cities. These amendments institutionalized decentralized governance, enabling grassroots democracy with real power and resources.

Significance of the 73rd and 74th Amendments

- Constitutional Status and Protection: Both amendments added new parts (Part IX for Panchayats and Part IX-A for Municipalities) to

the Constitution, granting these local bodies constitutional legitimacy. This protection ensures regular elections every five years, security of tenure for representatives, and recognition of these institutions as pillars of democratic governance.

- Structured Governance Framework: The 73rd Amendment mandates a three-tier Panchayati Raj system—Gram Panchayat at village level, Panchayat Samiti at block level, and Zilla Parishad at district level. The 74th Amendment provides for Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils, and Municipal Corporations based on urban population size. This structure ensures appropriate governance levels tailored to local needs.
- Democratic Decentralization and Inclusion: These amendments institutionalized direct elections for all members of local bodies and reserved seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women (at least one-third), promoting social equity and inclusive representation in local governance.
- Defined Powers and Functions: The 11th and 12th Schedules of the Constitution enumerate subjects and functions for rural and urban local bodies, respectively. These include economic development, social justice, health, sanitation, education, and infrastructure, empowering local governments to plan and implement developmental schemes in their areas.
- Financial Autonomy: The amendments provide for the establishment of State Finance Commissions to recommend measures to improve local bodies' financial health. Local governments are empowered to levy taxes and receive grants, enabling them to generate resources and sustain governance activities.
- Empowerment and Accountability Mechanisms: Regular Gram Sabha and Ward Committee meetings enable direct citizen participation, improving transparency and accountability of local governments.
- Promotion of Participatory Democracy: These reforms shifted power away from centralized state control to local communities, fostering participatory democracy where citizens have a direct

voice in governance and development decisions affecting their lives.

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments are transformative legal frameworks that revitalized local self-government in India. By providing constitutional recognition, clearly defined structures, powers, social inclusivity, and financial autonomy, they enhanced democratic decentralization. Despite challenges in implementation, these amendments remain crucial for empowering local communities and deepening democracy at the grassroots level in both rural and urban India.

10. Discuss the role of elected representatives in ensuring people's participation and transparency in local governance.

Ans:- Elected representatives play a central role in ensuring people's participation and transparency in local governance, which is vital for the functioning of democracy at the grassroots level. Their presence bridges the gap between government policies and community needs, fostering accountability and inclusive development within local self-government institutions such as Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

Role of Elected Representatives in People's Participation

- Direct Representation: Elected representatives serve as the voice of their constituents in local government institutions. By being directly chosen by the people, they reflect the aspirations, grievances, and needs of the local population, promoting participatory democracy.
- Facilitators of Public Engagement: They organize and encourage regular meetings like Gram Sabha and Ward Committees, where local residents discuss community issues, developmental plans,

and service delivery. This inclusive engagement empowers citizens to actively participate in decision-making processes.

- Advocacy and Social Inclusion: Representatives often work to ensure marginalized groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, and economically weaker sections have a platform in local governance, thus fostering social equity and inclusive participation.

Role in Ensuring Transparency

- Accountability and Oversight: Elected representatives scrutinize the functioning of local government institutions, including financial management, implementation of schemes, and public service delivery. They raise queries and demand explanations to prevent misuse or misallocation of resources.
- Disclosure and Information Sharing: By maintaining transparency in local bodies' proceedings and budgets, they help keep citizens informed about governance activities, thereby building trust and openness.
- Grievance Redressal: Representatives act as accessible points of contact for citizens to lodge complaints and seek redressal for issues related to utilities, public works, and social services, ensuring government responsiveness and transparency.

Elected representatives are crucial agents for democratizing local governance. By facilitating active public participation, representing diverse community voices, and enforcing checks on local administration, they enhance transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness. Thus, their role is indispensable for effective, people-centric governance at the grassroots level.

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UNIT-3

Central Legislative Processes: Law making procedures- Ordinary and Financial, Constitution Amendment Procedure.

2-4 Marks

1. **What is the first step in the process of making an ordinary law in Parliament?**

1. **Ans:-** The first step is the *Introduction* or *First Reading* of the bill, where the bill is introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha by a minister or a private member. The bill's title and objectives are read, and it is published in the Gazette, but there is no debate at this stage.

2. **Differentiate between a Money Bill and an Ordinary Bill.**

- **Ans:-** A Money Bill deals only with financial matters such as taxation, borrowing, and expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, whereas an Ordinary Bill can deal with any subject other than financial matters.
- Money Bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha with the President's recommendation, but Ordinary Bills can be introduced in either House by a minister or private member.
- The Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject Money Bills but can only make recommendations, which the Lok Sabha may accept or reject. Ordinary Bills can be amended, rejected, or delayed by the Rajya Sabha.
- Money Bills require the certification of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Ordinary Bills do not.
- Money Bills must be returned by Rajya Sabha within 14 days or are deemed passed; Ordinary Bills have no such time limit.

3. **What is the role of the Rajya Sabha in passing a Money Bill?**

Ans:- The Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments to a Money Bill within 14 days of its receipt. It cannot amend or reject the bill. The Lok Sabha may accept or reject these recommendations. If Rajya Sabha fails to return the bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses.

4. **Explain the procedure for introducing a Money Bill in Parliament.**

   Ans:- A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and only by a minister. It requires the prior recommendation of the President. The Speaker of Lok Sabha certifies the bill as a Money Bill before it is sent to the Rajya Sabha for consideration.

5. **What do you mean by 'Joint Sitting of Parliament'? When is it held?**

   Ans;- A Joint Sitting of Parliament is a combined sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It is held to resolve deadlock over Ordinary Bills and Financial Bills when both Houses disagree on a bill's passage, amendments, or fail to pass it within six months.

6. **What is the significance of the President's assent in law making?**

   Ans;- The President's assent is mandatory for a bill passed by Parliament to become law. The President can give assent, withhold assent, or return an ordinary bill for reconsideration. However, for Money Bills and Constitutional Amendment Bills, the President must give assent. This assent ensures the constitutional validity and formal approval of law.

7. **Mention two special features of the procedure for amending the Constitution.**

- **Ans**:- Certain amendments require not only a special majority in both Houses of Parliament but must also be ratified by at least half of the state legislatures.
- There is no provision for a joint sitting if the two Houses of Parliament disagree on a constitutional amendment.

8. **Write a short note on the 'First Reading' of a Bill.**
   Ans:- The First Reading is the introduction of the bill in either House of Parliament, where the title and objectives are read aloud. There is no debate or voting at this stage. The bill is published in the official Gazette, marking its formal presentation for consideration.
9. **Explain the term 'Financial Bill' with an example.**
   Ans:- A Financial Bill is a bill that contains provisions related to taxation or expenditure but does not strictly fall within the definition of a Money Bill. It requires a recommendation of the President and can be introduced in either House. For example, a bill amending tax laws but including other non-money matters is a Financial Bill.
10. **List any two articles of the Indian Constitution that deal with constitutional amendment procedures.**
    Ans:- Article 368 and Article 54 (which relates to the election of the President but is connected with constitutional amendments involving the President and Parliament) are two such articles. Article 368 primarily governs the power and procedure for amendment of the Constitution.

8-10 Marks

1. **Explain the procedure for passing an Ordinary Bill in Parliament.**

Ans:- An Ordinary Bill is a proposed law that can be introduced in either house of the Indian Parliament—Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha—by a minister or any member other than a money or constitutional amendment bill. The procedure for passing an Ordinary Bill involves several stages of scrutiny, deliberation, and approval before it becomes an Act of Parliament.

Procedure for Passing an Ordinary Bill in Parliament

- Introduction (First Reading): The bill is introduced in either the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha by a member. The introduction is accompanied by a motion to move the bill. The title and objectives of the bill are read, but there is no debate at this stage. After introduction, the bill is published in the Gazette.
- Second Reading: This is the most detailed stage and has two parts:
    - General Discussion: The general principles and objectives of the bill are discussed by members, covering the bill as a whole but not clause-wise.
    - Committee Stage: The bill is usually referred to a Select or Joint Committee for detailed examination. The committee scrutinizes the bill clause by clause, hears opinions from stakeholders, and suggests amendments.
    - Consideration Stage: After receiving the committee's report, the house debates each clause and considers amendments. Members vote on each clause and amendment. Accepted amendments become part of the bill.
- Third Reading: This stage involves a final debate limited to arguments for or against the bill as a whole, without further amendments. A vote is taken to pass or reject the bill. A simple majority of members present and voting is required for passage.

- Other House Consideration: Once passed in one house, the bill moves to the other house, where it undergoes the same three readings and approval process. The other house may pass the bill as is, suggest amendments, or reject it.
- Resolution of Differences: If there are disagreements between the two houses regarding amendments or passage, a joint sitting of both houses can be called by the President to resolve the deadlock. The bill is passed or rejected by majority vote in the joint sitting.
- Assent of the President: After approval by both houses, the bill is sent to the President for assent. The President may give assent, withhold assent, or return the bill (except money bills) to Parliament for reconsideration. If Parliament passes the bill again, the President must give assent. Once assent is given, the bill becomes law.

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The passage of an Ordinary Bill in the Indian Parliament involves a thorough and multi-stage process of introduction, detailed examination, debate, and voting in both houses, followed by the President's assent. This process ensures careful scrutiny and democratic deliberation, allowing for amendments and consensus building before a proposed law is enacted to govern the country.An Ordinary Bill is a proposed law in the Indian Parliament that can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha by a minister or any other member. It undergoes a detailed legislative process involving several stages across both Houses before becoming a law.

2. **Differentiate between Ordinary Bill and Money Bill.**
   Ans:- The Ordinary Bill and the Money Bill are two distinct types of legislative proposals in the Indian Parliament, each with unique

characteristics, procedures, and constitutional requirements tailored to their respective subjects.

An Ordinary Bill can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha by a minister or a private member. It deals with any matter other than financial subjects specified in the Constitution. The passage of an Ordinary Bill requires the approval of both Houses of Parliament, followed by the President's assent. Both Houses have the power to discuss, amend, reject, and delay the bill. If disagreements arise, a joint sitting can be called to resolve the deadlock. This detailed bicameral procedure ensures thorough scrutiny, deliberation, and democratic decision-making before the bill becomes law.

In contrast, a Money Bill exclusively addresses financial matters such as taxation, government borrowing, expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, and other matters enumerated in Article 110 of the Constitution. Money Bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha and only by a government minister upon the President's recommendation. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha certifies whether a bill is a Money Bill. Unlike Ordinary Bills, the Rajya Sabha's role is limited to making recommendations within 14 days, which the Lok Sabha may accept or reject, and it cannot amend or reject the bill. Money Bills do not require Rajya Sabha's approval before being sent for the President's assent, and there is no provision for a joint sitting in case of disagreement. This streamlined procedure ensures swift passage of essential financial legislation, maintaining the supremacy of the Lok Sabha in money matters.

To sum up, while Ordinary Bills cover diverse legislative subjects and undergo comprehensive bicameral scrutiny, Money Bills focus solely on financial issues and follow a special expedited procedure

emphasizing the Lok Sabha's primacy. These differences uphold constitutional principles by balancing thorough legislative oversight with the efficient enactment of financial measures.

3. **Explain the procedure for passing a Money Bill in Parliament.**
Ans:- A Money Bill, as defined under Article 110 of the Indian Constitution, exclusively deals with financial matters such as taxation, government borrowing, expenditure from the Consolidated Fund, and related financial obligations. The procedure for passing a Money Bill in Parliament is distinct from Ordinary Bills, focusing on expedited and Lok Sabha-centric approval to ensure swift passage of financial legislation.
Procedure for Passing a Money Bill in Parliament

- Introduction Only in Lok Sabha: A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and solely by a minister. It requires prior recommendation of the President before introduction. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha certifies the bill as a Money Bill, and this decision is final and not subject to challenge.
- Lok Sabha Consideration and Passage: The bill undergoes debate and voting in the Lok Sabha. Since the Lok Sabha exclusively controls Money Bills, a simple majority is sufficient for passage. Amendments may be proposed and accepted during this stage by the Lok Sabha members.
- Rajya Sabha's Limited Role: After passing in the Lok Sabha, the Money Bill is sent to the Rajya Sabha, which does not have the power to amend or reject it. The Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations regarding the bill and must return the bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, with or without suggestions.
- Lok Sabha's Discretion on Recommendations: Upon receiving the Rajya Sabha's recommendations, the Lok Sabha may accept or

reject any or all of them. If accepted, the bill is considered passed in the amended form; if rejected, the bill is deemed passed in the original form approved by the Lok Sabha.

- Deemed Passage: If the Rajya Sabha fails to return the bill within the 14-day period, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form passed by the Lok Sabha.
- Presidential Assent: The passed Money Bill is presented to the President, who may give assent but cannot withhold or return the bill for reconsideration. Upon assent, the bill becomes law.

The procedure for passing a Money Bill emphasizes the primacy of the Lok Sabha in financial matters, restricts the Rajya Sabha's powers to ensure timely approval, and mandates clear constitutional safeguards like Presidential assent. This streamlined process ensures that critical fiscal legislation is enacted efficiently while maintaining a necessary degree of parliamentary oversight.

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4. Describe the procedure for passing a Financial Bill.

Ans:- The Financial Bill is a category of legislation related to the financial matters of the government and is distinct from both Ordinary Bills and Money Bills in terms of scope and procedure. The procedure for passing a Financial Bill in the Indian Parliament depends on the two types of Financial Bills recognized under Article 117 of the Constitution: Financial Bill (I) and Financial Bill (II).

Procedure for Passing a Financial Bill

- Introduction: Financial Bill (I) can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha by a minister and only with the President's recommendation. Financial Bill (II) can be introduced in either House and does not require the President's prior recommendation but requires it for consideration.

- Legislative Process: Financial Bill (I) follows the special procedure similar to an Ordinary Bill but with restrictions akin to a Money Bill: it can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha can amend or reject it but not delay it indefinitely. Financial Bill (II) follows the same procedure as an Ordinary Bill and can be introduced in either House and amended or rejected by both.
- Rajya Sabha Powers: In the case of Financial Bill (I), the Rajya Sabha can make recommendations but the Lok Sabha exercises overriding powers by accepting or rejecting these. For Financial Bill (II), Rajya Sabha has full power to debate, amend, or reject the bill.
- Resolution of Disagreements: If there is any disagreement between both Houses on either Financial Bill, the President may summon a joint sitting of both Houses to resolve the deadlock by majority vote, subject to constitutional provisions.
- Presidential Assent: After passage by Parliament, the bill is presented to the President who can give assent, withhold assent, or return the bill for reconsideration. Upon assent, the bill becomes law.

The procedure for passing Financial Bills ensures parliamentary control over government's fiscal policies while distinguishing different levels of scrutiny for bills that involve financial appropriations but are not exclusively Money Bills. These detailed procedures uphold constitutional balances between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, ensuring democratic legitimacy and timely enactment of essential financial legislation.

5. **Explain the role of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in certifying a Money Bill.**

Ans:- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha plays a crucial constitutional role in the certification of a Money Bill, which is essential for the legislative process of financial legislation in India. This power is derived from Article 110 of the Indian Constitution, which defines what constitutes a Money Bill and vests the Speaker with the authority to certify a bill as a Money Bill before it is sent to the Rajya Sabha for consideration.

The certification by the Speaker is significant because only Money Bills can be introduced exclusively in the Lok Sabha and must follow a special legislative procedure that limits the Rajya Sabha's powers to merely recommending amendments within a stipulated 14-day period. Once a bill is certified as a Money Bill by the Speaker, his decision is final and binding, meaning it cannot be challenged or overturned by any authority, including the courts. This finality ensures clarity in the legislative process by preventing disputes over the nature of the bill and restricting the Rajya Sabha's role to a consultative rather than a deliberative capacity.

Furthermore, the Speaker's certification safeguards the constitutional mandate that Money Bills are primarily concerned with taxation, government borrowing, and expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. The Speaker assesses whether the bill complies with these criteria and prevents bills that do not meet these requirements from being enacted under the expedited Money Bill procedure. This role effectively upholds the balance of parliamentary powers and ensures that financial legislations follow the constitutional framework.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha holds the authoritative and final power to certify a bill as a Money Bill, a function that is pivotal in the constitutional and legislative process. This certification streamlines the passage of crucial financial legislation by vesting

primacy in the Lok Sabha and limiting the role of the Rajya Sabha, thus preserving the financial sovereignty of the directly elected house and maintaining parliamentary order and accountability in fiscal matters.

6. **Explain the different types of Constitution Amendment Procedures under Article 368.**

Ans:- Article 368 of the Indian Constitution provides the procedures by which the Constitution can be amended to respond to changing social, political, and economic needs. The amendment process varies based on the nature and importance of the provisions being amended, ensuring a balance between flexibility and rigidity in constitutional law.

There are mainly three types of amendment procedures under Article 368:

1. Amendments by Special Majority of Parliament Alone: This procedure requires the bill to be passed in both Houses of Parliament by a special majority—meaning a majority of the total membership plus two-thirds of the members present and voting. Such amendments are applicable to provisions that are not related to the federal structure or states' rights. No ratification by states is needed, and the President's assent completes the process.
2. Amendments by Special Majority of Parliament and Ratification by States: For provisions affecting the federal structure, such as distribution of powers between the Union and states, election of the President, or representation of states in Parliament, the bill must first be passed in both Houses by special majority and then ratified by at least half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. Only after such ratification can the bill be presented to the President for assent.

3. Simple Majority Amendments: Some minor provisions, particularly relating to the formation of new states or alteration of boundaries, can be amended by Parliament through a simple majority vote, similar to the ordinary legislative process. These are not governed by Article 368 strictly and have a less stringent procedure.

   Importantly, there is no provision for joint sittings in case of disagreement between the two Houses over a constitutional amendment. After the parliamentary and, if required, state ratifications, the President's assent is mandatory and cannot be withheld or returned for reconsideration. The Supreme Court's Basic Structure Doctrine also restricts Parliament's power, holding that amendments cannot alter the fundamental framework or core principles of the Constitution.

   Article 368 empowers Parliament with flexible yet structured procedures to amend the Constitution, categorized by the significance of the amendment's impact on the nation's governance and federal balance. This multi-tiered process safeguards constitutional integrity while allowing necessary evolution, ensuring that amendments are democratically legitimized, comprehensively reviewed, and respecting India's federal character.

7. **Discuss the procedure of Constitution Amendment requiring ratification by half of the states.**

   Ans:- The procedure for constitutional amendments requiring ratification by at least half of the states is designed to protect India's federal structure by ensuring that significant changes impacting the balance of power between the Union and state governments receive broader consensus. This procedure is outlined in Article 368 of the Indian Constitution and applies to important

provisions such as the election of the President, the distribution of legislative powers, and the judiciary system.

The process begins with the introduction of a constitutional amendment bill in either House of Parliament. The bill must be passed by a special majority, which means a majority of the total membership of each House plus at least two-thirds of members present and voting. After the Parliament approves the bill, it must be sent to the state legislatures for ratification. To become law, at least half of the state legislatures must ratify the amendment by a simple majority vote within their legislative assemblies. There is no fixed time limit for the states to complete this ratification.

State ratification is intended as a safeguard for the federal system because it involves states directly in decisions affecting their powers or status. Ratified states pass resolutions in their legislatures, signaling their consent. Only after this ratification is the bill presented to the President for assent, which is essential for the amendment to become part of the Constitution. Importantly, the President's assent cannot be withheld or returned for reconsideration once the states have ratified.

There is no provision for a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament if disagreements arise during the voting process of such constitutional amendments. The absence of joint sittings highlights the importance of consensus and the need for clear majority consent at every stage. Provisions requiring state ratification are often referred to as 'entrenched provisions' because they ensure fundamental aspects of India's governance cannot be altered without wider agreement.

The procedure for constitutional amendments requiring ratification by half of the states serves as a critical mechanism for preserving India's federal structure. It ensures that major constitutional

changes affecting the powers and functions of states receive democratic legitimacy not only from Parliament but also from a significant portion of the constituent states. This process balances the need for constitutional evolution with the protection of regional autonomy and federal integrity.

8. **Explain the role of the President in the process of law-making.**
Ans:- The President of India plays a pivotal constitutional role in the law-making process as the ceremonial head of state and part of the Parliament. Though primarily acting on the advice of the Council of Ministers, the President's functions extend beyond mere formality, encompassing key procedural and discretionary powers that influence the passage of legislation.
The President summons and prorogues both Houses of Parliament and can dissolve the Lok Sabha, enabling the legislative calendar to function smoothly. Through an annual address to the joint sitting of Parliament, the President outlines government policies and legislative priorities, setting the tone for the parliamentary session.
The President's assent is required for all bills passed by Parliament to become law. For ordinary bills, the President may assent, withhold assent, or return the bill for reconsideration (except money bills). However, if Parliament passes the bill again, the President must assent to it, ensuring legislative sovereignty.
In the case of money bills, the President's role includes prior recommendation before introduction in the Lok Sabha, but once passed, the President cannot withhold or return the bill, reflecting the importance of financial legislation. Constitutional amendment bills require mandatory President's assent without the power to withhold it. This illustrates a constitutional balance ensuring the

President's role as guardian of constitutional processes while respecting parliamentary supremacy.

Additionally, under Article 123, the President has the power to promulgate ordinances when Parliament is not in session, enabling urgent legislative action. The President may also seek advisory opinions from the Supreme Court regarding any constitutional issue, thus upholding constitutional legality in law-making.

The President of India, though largely a ceremonial figure, holds significant constitutional functions in the legislative process. By summoning Parliament, recommending money bills, granting assent, and promulgating ordinances, the President ensures legal legitimacy, constitutional conformity, and timely enactment of laws, thereby maintaining the delicate balance between executive authority and parliamentary sovereignty in India's democratic system.

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9. Discuss how deadlock between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is resolved in passing of an Ordinary Bill.

Ans:- A deadlock between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during the passage of an Ordinary Bill occurs when the two Houses disagree on the bill's passage, amendments, or when the second House does not pass it within six months of receiving it. To prevent legislative paralysis in such situations, the Indian Constitution provides a mechanism to resolve the deadlock through a joint sitting of both Houses under Article 108.

The process begins after one House passes a bill and sends it to the other House, which either rejects it, proposes unacceptable amendments, or fails to decide within six months (excluding periods of prorogation or adjournment exceeding four days). In such a scenario, the President may summon a joint sitting of the

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The joint sitting is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or in their absence by the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, or if both are absent, by the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha (the Vice President of India) does not preside over the joint sitting. During the joint sitting, members of both Houses deliberate and vote together on the bill. Since the Lok Sabha has significantly more members than the Rajya Sabha, the effective power lies with the directly elected House, meaning the bill usually passes if the Lok Sabha supports it. The bill is passed by a simple majority of the total members present and voting. This process ensures that legislative work continues despite disagreements and upholds Parliament's authority to enact laws.

Notably, this procedure applies only to Ordinary Bills and Financial Bills (other than Money Bills). In the case of Money Bills and Constitutional Amendment Bills, no such joint sitting is provided, with other constitutional provisions governing their passage and resolution of disagreements.

The joint sitting mechanism under Article 108 is an essential constitutional device to break deadlocks between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha over Ordinary Bills. By convening both Houses to act as a single body, it facilitates the resolution of legislative impasses, preserves parliamentary supremacy, and ensures the smooth functioning of the law-making process in India's bicameral Parliament.

10. Explain the importance of Financial Control of Parliament over the Executive.

Ans;- The financial control of Parliament over the Executive is a fundamental aspect of India's parliamentary democracy that

ensures accountability, transparency, and proper utilization of public funds. Parliament, representing the people, holds the "power of the purse," meaning the Executive cannot impose taxes, borrow funds, or spend government money without Parliament's approval. This financial oversight is crucial for maintaining democratic control over government expenditure and preventing misuse of resources.

One of the primary ways this control is exercised is through the Union Budget, prepared by the Cabinet and approved by Parliament. The budget grants funds for government departments and programs for the upcoming financial year, authorizing expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. No money can be spent unless Parliament has passed the relevant demands for grants, which ensures that the Executive is financially accountable to the legislature.

Parliamentary financial control is further strengthened by specialized committees like the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Estimates Committee, and the Committee on Public Undertakings. These committees examine detailed reports on government spending, investigate irregularities, and ensure funds are used efficiently and in accordance with Parliament's intentions. Their scrutiny helps detect corruption, wastage, and unauthorized expenditure.

The Lok Sabha plays a particularly significant role in financial control since money bills—which involve taxation or expenditure—can only be introduced and passed in this house. The Rajya Sabha's powers in money bills are limited to making recommendations, which the Lok Sabha may accept or reject. This highlights the supremacy of the directly elected house in financial matters, strengthening democratic legitimacy.

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Parliament also uses mechanisms such as Question Hour, Zero Hour, debates, and motions like the Adjournment Motion to question and hold the Executive accountable for financial decisions and policy implementation. This continuous monitoring deters arbitrary financial action by the Executive and ensures governance aligns with public priorities.

Financial control of Parliament over the Executive is critical to India's democratic governance. Through budget approval, committee scrutiny, legislative procedures on money bills, and questioning mechanisms, Parliament ensures that public funds are used responsibly and transparently. This control maintains the delicate balance of power between the legislature and Executive, enforcing accountability and protecting the interests of the citizens.



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UNIT-4

Parliamentary Committees: Types, Role of Standing Committees and Finance Committees.

2-4 Marks

1. **What are Parliamentary Committees? Define their purpose.**
   Ans:- Parliamentary Committees are small groups of Members of Parliament (MPs) formed to perform specific tasks such as scrutinizing legislation, examining government policies, conducting inquiries, and overseeing government functioning. Their purpose is to provide detailed examination, expert analysis, and ensure accountability of the government by facilitating in-depth discussions away from the full House.
2. **Differentiate between Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committees.**
   Ans:- Standing Committees are permanent committees constituted annually or periodically to oversee specific government functions continuously. Ad-hoc Committees are temporary, formed for a specific purpose or inquiry, and dissolved after completing their task.
3. **Explain the composition and role of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).**
   Ans:- The PAC typically has 22 members from both Houses, elected annually by respective Houses. It examines the accounts of government expenditure and reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to ensure that funds are spent according to parliamentary approval, detecting irregularities or misuse.
4. **Write a short note on the Estimates Committee.**
   Ans:- The Estimates Committee consists of 30 members from the Lok Sabha, elected annually. It examines the budget estimates of

various ministries, suggesting alternative policies to improve efficiency and economy in government spending.

5. **What is the role of the Committee on Public Undertakings?**

1. **Ans:-** This committee reviews the reports and accounts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), ensuring these enterprises operate efficiently and manage public resources responsibly.

6. **Why are Standing Committees considered important for Parliament?**

   Ans:- Standing Committees provide specialized scrutiny of government actions, ensure detailed examination of bills and budgets, hold the executive accountable, and facilitate bipartisan consensus, making parliamentary functioning more effective.

7. **Mention any four types of Standing Committees.**

- **Ans:-** Financial Committees
- Departmental Standing Committees
- Committees to Enquire
- House-Keeping or Service Committees

8. **Explain the significance of Finance Committees in ensuring accountability.**

   Ans:- Finance Committees like the Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee scrutinize government spending, evaluate budgetary allocations, and oversee financial discipline, thereby ensuring transparent and responsible use of public funds.

9. **State any two advantages of having Parliamentary Committees.**

- **Ans:-** They enable detailed examination of complex issues away from the full House.
- They promote bipartisan consensus and reduce workload on Parliament.

10. **How do Parliamentary Committees help in reducing the burden on Parliament?**

Ans:- By handling detailed scrutiny of bills, budgets, and government functioning, committees streamline parliamentary debates and decision-making, making the legislative process more efficient and allowing Parliament to focus on broader policy discussions.

8-10 Marks

1. **Define Parliamentary Committees and explain their importance in the Indian Parliamentary system.**

Ans:- Parliamentary Committees are bodies constituted by the Parliament, either through election, appointment, or nomination, to perform detailed study and analysis of bills, budgets, policies, and other matters that require focused consideration. These committees function under the authority and direction of the Speaker or Chairman and report back to the House with their findings.

Definition of Parliamentary Committees

A Parliamentary Committee refers to a group of members from either house (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) who are tasked to examine, investigate, and report on specific issues such as bills, budgets, policy proposals, or government functioning. Broadly, there are two types – Standing Committees (permanent, such as Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, Departmentally Related Standing Committees) and Ad Hoc Committees (temporary, created for particular purposes like Joint Parliamentary Committees or Select Committees).

Importance in the Indian Parliamentary System

- Parliamentary Committees provide legislative expertise by allowing MPs to study complex issues in depth, seek expert information, and conduct clause-by-clause analysis of bills.
- These committees ensure checks and balances by scrutinizing government actions, policies, and expenditure, effectively holding the Executive accountable.
- Committees facilitate detailed legislative scrutiny and improve the quality of laws passed, often suggesting practical amendments after consulting experts and the public.
- They help in managing the workload of Parliament, which meets for limited days every year, by reviewing and discussing matters in smaller groups throughout the year.
- Parliamentary Committees promote transparency, public engagement, and inclusivity by inviting public as well as expert opinions on matters under consideration.
- Committees provide a platform for consensus-building across party lines, as discussions tend to be more collaborative and less influenced by media or partisan pressures.

Parliamentary Committees are indispensable for the effective functioning of the Indian Parliament, as they ensure thorough legislative scrutiny, hold the Executive accountable, and facilitate informed, balanced, and participatory decision-making. Despite some contemporary challenges such as reduced bill referrals and quorum issues, their role remains central to upholding transparency, expertise, and public trust in the Parliamentary process

2. Differentiate between Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committees of Parliament.

Ans:- Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committees are two foundational types of Parliamentary Committees in the Indian Parliament, each designed to fulfill distinct roles critical to the legislative process.

The Standing Committees are permanent committees that operate throughout the year or are constituted periodically according to the rules and procedures of Parliament. They have a continuous existence, are reconstituted periodically, and engage in a broad range of activities including detailed scrutiny of bills, budgets, and policies; reviewing demands for grants; and providing oversight of the Executive's actions. Examples include the Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, and Departmentally Related Standing Committees. Their regular functioning ensures that parliamentary business receives expert and uninterrupted attention, facilitates transparency and accountability, and improves legislative outcomes through informed deliberations.

In contrast, Ad-hoc Committees are temporary bodies constituted for a specific task or purpose and dissolved as soon as they complete the assigned work. These committees are typically set up to examine particular bills, issues of public importance, or to conduct special inquiries. Once their report is submitted to the House, their existence ceases. Classic examples include the Select Committees and Joint Committees on specific bills or investigations, such as the Joint Committee on Stock Market Scam or Joint Committee on Fertilizer Pricing. Ad-hoc Committees are crucial for swift and specialized inquiry and decision-making on issues that require immediate but focused attention.

To conclude, while Standing Committees provide permanence, systematic scrutiny, and continuity to parliamentary oversight, Ad-hoc Committees offer flexibility and targeted response to specific

legislative or administrative needs. Both are indispensable to the functioning of Parliament as they complement each other by balancing the demands for both ongoing supervision and swift, issue-based investigation. Their combined efforts enhance the quality, transparency, and accountability of the Indian legislative process.

3. **Explain the composition and functions of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).**

Ans:- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a vital parliamentary committee in India, entrusted with the responsibility of auditing government revenue and expenditure and ensuring legislative oversight of public funds. Its formation upholds the principle that Parliament, as the embodiment of the people's will, must hold the Executive accountable for financial propriety and efficiency.

The composition of the PAC consists of not more than twenty-two members; fifteen are elected each year from the Lok Sabha, and up to seven from the Rajya Sabha. Members are elected annually following proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. Importantly, no minister can serve on the committee, ensuring its impartiality and independence. The chairperson of the PAC is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and, by convention since 1967, is selected from the opposition, thereby reinforcing its role as a watchdog over government finances.

The primary functions of the PAC include examining the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) after they are tabled in Parliament. The committee scrutinizes accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by

Parliament, the annual finance accounts of the government, and audit reports concerning autonomous bodies, statutory corporations, and trading, manufacturing, or project-based schemes. The PAC ensures that public money is spent within the scope of parliamentary approval, that expenditure conforms to governing authority, and that re-appropriations follow prescribed rules. The Committee also considers audit findings related to improper or wasteful expenditure, financial irregularities, and inefficiencies, summoning departmental officers and seeking expert advice as needed.

In conclusion, the Public Accounts Committee plays a crucial role in India's parliamentary democracy by ensuring accountability and transparency in the utilization of public resources. Its impartial composition and robust functions empower it to act as a vigilant monitor over governmental financial administration, strengthening public trust in legislative oversight.

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4. **Describe the role and importance of the Estimates Committee in financial control.**

Ans:- The Estimates Committee is an important financial committee of the Indian Parliament, primarily tasked with scrutinizing the budget estimates presented by the government and suggesting measures to improve efficiency and economy in administration. Established in 1950, it plays a significant role in financial control by ensuring that the resources allocated through budget estimates are utilized effectively and within the limits of policy.

The composition of the Estimates Committee consists of thirty members elected annually from the Lok Sabha based on proportional representation through a single transferable vote

system. Members are exclusively from the Lok Sabha, and ministers are not eligible to be part of this committee to maintain impartiality. The Chairperson is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from among its members. The committee selects ministries or departments for detailed examination on a rotational basis, ensuring that over time, all ministries are scrutinized for financial discipline and efficiency.

The core functions of the Estimates Committee include reporting on economies, improvements in organization, efficiency, or administrative reforms consistent with the policy underlying the estimates. It suggests alternative policies to promote economy and efficiency in administration and examines whether the funds are spent within the limits of the policies implied in the estimates. Additionally, the committee advises on the manner in which the budget estimates should be presented to Parliament. Although its recommendations are advisory, they hold considerable weight in enhancing financial oversight. The committee thus acts as a critical mechanism for promoting sound financial governance by identifying wastage, inefficiencies, and suggesting corrective administrative measures.

The Estimates Committee holds a pivotal role in financial control within the Indian parliamentary system by systematically examining budget estimates to ensure judicious use of public funds. Its work fosters accountability, transparency, and efficiency in government spending, ultimately contributing to the effective management of the nation's resources. Through its detailed oversight, the Estimates Committee helps Parliament maintain robust financial discipline and supports better governance.

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5. Discuss the functions of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Ans:- The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) is a significant financial parliamentary committee in India that oversees the functioning and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), ensuring they operate with accountability and transparency. Established in 1964, COPU serves an important role in monitoring government enterprises, which are key to the nation's economic development and public welfare.

The composition of the Committee includes up to 22 members, with 15 members elected annually from the Lok Sabha and up to 7 members nominated by the Rajya Sabha, all chosen through proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The Chairperson is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from among the committee members, and ministers are excluded from membership to maintain the committee's independence and impartiality.

The primary functions of the Committee on Public Undertakings focus on comprehensive scrutiny of the reports and accounts of public undertakings listed in the Fourth Schedule of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The committee reviews the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) relating to PSUs and examines whether these undertakings have been managed according to sound business practices and principles of commercial prudence. It evaluates the autonomy and efficiency of PSUs and ensures that their affairs align with government policies while promoting efficiency and reducing wastage. Furthermore, the committee can be assigned additional tasks related to public undertakings by the Speaker and may appoint study groups for detailed analysis of specific issues.

In conclusion, the Committee on Public Undertakings plays a crucial role in maintaining financial discipline and operational efficiency within India's public sector. By examining reports, accounts, and management practices of PSUs, it supports parliamentary oversight, promotes transparency, and safeguards public interest in the administration of government enterprises. The committee's work contributes significantly to improving governance standards and ensuring responsible use of public resources.

6. **Explain how Standing Committees assist Parliament in effective law-making.**

Ans;- Standing Committees of the Indian Parliament play a crucial role in assisting the legislative process by providing detailed scrutiny of Bills and government policies before they are debated and passed in the Houses. These permanent committees are specialized according to ministries or departments and have members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, ensuring a comprehensive examination of complex legislative matters.
One key function of Standing Committees is to examine Bills referred to them by the Speaker of Lok Sabha or the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. This includes clause-by-clause scrutiny, allowing members to carefully analyze the provisions, consult experts and stakeholders, and propose amendments to improve the quality of legislation. Moreover, they review the demands for grants of ministries, evaluate policy implementation, and examine government schemes and budgets, contributing significantly to financial oversight and policy effectiveness. This detailed examination in smaller groups helps ease the parliamentary

workload, especially given the limited number of days Parliament sits annually.

Standing Committees also enhance transparency and public participation in the lawmaking process by inviting written memoranda and expert opinions, thus providing an inclusive forum for diverse viewpoints beyond the immediate legislature. Their reports carry persuasive value and often lead to significant improvements in Bills, as governments typically accept many committee recommendations, leading to more balanced, informed, and workable laws. The committee system promotes consensus-building, reducing adversarial politics by focusing on constructive discussions away from the confrontational atmosphere of the full House.

Standing Committees are indispensable to effective lawmaking in India as they provide legislatures with expert scrutiny, promote transparency, encourage public engagement, and reduce the legislative workload. By improving the quality of Bills and enhancing oversight of government policies and expenditure, Standing Committees strengthen parliamentary democracy and ensure more accountable and efficient governance.

7. **Discuss the significance of Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) in scrutinizing bills.**

Ans:- Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) hold significant importance in the Indian parliamentary system, especially in the detailed scrutiny of bills and enhancing the law-making process. Established in 1993, these committees were created to provide specialized and focused attention to various ministries and departments, covering all central government ministries through 24 such committees.

Each DRSC consists of 31 members, with 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha, nominated respectively by the Speaker and Chairman. Ministers are not eligible for membership to maintain objectivity and independence. These committees serve for one-year terms and are mandated to examine demands for grants, bills, and annual reports pertaining to the ministries under their jurisdiction. This structural specialization allows Parliament to leverage expert and concentrated analysis of complex legislative and policy issues related to each ministry. The principal function of DRSCs in scrutinizing bills includes detailed clause-by-clause examination of legislative proposals referred by the Houses. By doing so, they identify potential loopholes, ambiguities, or practical difficulties in the proposed laws and suggest amendments to improve clarity, effectiveness, and implementation feasibility. They also review related policy documents and broader long-term strategies, providing Parliament with informed recommendations. This process ensures that bills are thoroughly vetted before general discussions, preventing rushed or ill-considered legislation. Besides legal scrutiny, DRSCs analyze ministry budgets and expenditure, holding the executive accountable for policy implementation and financial discipline. Departmentally Related Standing Committees promote transparency by inviting inputs from experts, stakeholders, and the public during their examination of bills, thereby broadening the scope of legislative review beyond parliamentary members alone. They also reduce Parliament's workload by carrying out detailed studies outside of regular sessions, enabling more focused and effective debates when bills are presented in the Houses. Furthermore, these committees foster bipartisan cooperation, as members from different parties collectively scrutinize government

proposals without the adversarial atmosphere typical of full parliamentary sessions.

Departmentally Related Standing Committees play a pivotal role in strengthening the Indian parliamentary democracy by ensuring comprehensive, expert scrutiny of bills and related government policies. Their work enhances the quality of legislation through informed amendments, promotes executive accountability, and increases transparency in governance. By facilitating specialized, non-partisan, and detailed examination, DRSCs significantly contribute to the effective functioning of Parliament and the overall law-making process.

8. Explain the role of Parliamentary Committees in ensuring financial accountability of the Executive.

Ans:- Parliamentary Committees play a crucial role in ensuring the financial accountability of the Executive in India's democratic system. These committees function as watchdogs of public finance, ensuring that government expenditure is efficient, transparent, and in accordance with the laws and policies approved by Parliament. The primary financial committees responsible for this oversight are the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Estimates Committee, and the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU), each contributing distinctly to legislative scrutiny and budgetary control.

The Public Accounts Committee examines the audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to ensure that government funds have been spent for the intended purposes without irregularities or wastage. It evaluates the appropriation and finance accounts of the government and holds the Executive

accountable for its financial administration. The Estimates Committee focuses on scrutinizing the budget estimates and suggests measures to promote economy and efficiency before funds are allocated. Meanwhile, the Committee on Public Undertakings assesses the financial management and performance of public sector undertakings, ensuring adherence to sound business practices and financial discipline. Through their detailed reviews, summon powers, and expert consultations, these committees facilitate transparency, deter corruption, and strengthen fiscal prudence in governance.

Parliamentary Committees are pivotal in enforcing financial accountability of the Executive by ensuring that public funds are used judiciously and in line with parliamentary intent. Their continuous oversight, examination of audit reports, and recommendations to Parliament enhance transparency, promote responsibility, and uphold the trust of the people in the democratic process. Through this institutional mechanism, Parliament exercises effective control over government finances, reinforcing integrity and efficiency in public administration.

9. **Describe the procedure followed by Finance Committees in examining government expenditure.**

Ans:- The Finance Committees of the Indian Parliament, which primarily include the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Estimates Committee, and the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU), play a vital role in examining government expenditure and ensuring financial accountability. These committees follow a well-established procedure to scrutinize how public funds are allocated, used, and managed by the Executive to promote economy, efficiency, and transparency in public finances.

The procedure generally begins with the examination of budget estimates and audit reports provided by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which highlight the details of government receipts and expenditures. The Estimates Committee undertakes a detailed analysis of the budget proposals of different ministries, assessing the justification behind each expenditure and suggesting improvements for administrative efficiency and economy. Parallelly, the PAC examines appropriation accounts and other reports to verify whether public money has been spent for the intended purposes and in conformity with parliamentary authorizations. The Committee on Public Undertakings reviews the financial performance and management of government enterprises. The Committees can summon officials, seek documents, and invite expert testimonies to gather comprehensive evidence. Sub-committees or study groups may be formed for focused assessments, and after thorough examination, the Committees prepare reports with findings and recommendations that are submitted to Parliament for further consideration.

The Committees also review cases of excess or savings related to grants, regularize excess expenditure through parliamentary approval, and identify financial irregularities or inefficiencies such as wasteful spending and unauthorized use of funds. Their reports not only check financial propriety but also evaluate the wisdom and effectiveness of government expenditure, thereby playing a critical role in legislative oversight and governance.

The procedure followed by Finance Committees involves systematic scrutiny of government budgets, expenditures, and accounts through detailed examination, evidence gathering, and report preparation. This rigorous process strengthens Parliament's control over public finances, enforcing accountability,

transparency, and prudent use of resources. Such oversight ensures that the Executive remains answerable to the legislature and the public, thereby safeguarding the financial integrity of the government.

10. Evaluate the contribution of Parliamentary Committees in strengthening democracy and transparency.

Ans:- Parliamentary Committees are fundamental to strengthening democracy and enhancing transparency in India's governance framework. These committees act as critical intermediaries between the government and Parliament, providing detailed scrutiny of legislation, policies, and administration that is not always possible in the full House due to limited time and large membership. By functioning through bipartisan and multi-party membership, committees promote consensus-building and reduce adversarial politics, enabling more constructive and focused evaluation of legislative and executive actions.

The significance of Parliamentary Committees lies in their ability to conduct in-depth analysis of bills and government expenditure, offer expert consultations, and invite public participation, thereby improving the quality of legislation and policy oversight. They ensure financial accountability through special financial committees like the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee, which scrutinize public spending and audit reports extensively. Committees also enhance transparency by making their reports public and involving stakeholders and citizens in the decision-making process, which builds trust and credibility in democratic governance. Furthermore, Parliamentary Committees act as mini-Parliaments that continue legislative work throughout the year, compensate for limited parliamentary sittings, and allow

members to specialize in complex issues for more effective legislative outcomes.

Parliamentary Committees contribute significantly to the robustness of Indian democracy by fostering accountability, transparency, and inclusiveness in governance. Their detailed and expert examination of government policies, bills, and expenditures helps Parliament function more efficiently and responsibly. By bridging the gap between the executive and legislature, they uphold democratic principles and enhance public confidence in the political system.

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UNIT-5

The Union Budget: Role of the Parliament.

2-4 Marks

1. **What is the Union Budget?**
   Ans:- The Union Budget is the annual financial statement presented by the Government of India outlining its estimated revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). It is the government's plan for raising resources and allocating funds to various sectors to manage the country's economy and development.
2. **Who presents the Union Budget in Parliament and when?**
   Ans:- The Union Budget is presented in the Parliament by the Finance Minister of India, usually on the first working day of February, so that it can be passed and implemented by the start of the new financial year on April 1.
3. **Explain the two parts of the Union Budget — Revenue Budget and Capital Budget.**

- **Ans:-** Revenue Budget: It contains estimates of revenue receipts (tax revenues and non-tax revenues) and revenue expenditures (salaries, subsidies, interest payments, pensions). Revenue expenditure does not create assets.
- Capital Budget: It includes capital receipts (borrowings, recovery of loans) and capital expenditures (spending that creates assets like infrastructure, equity investments).

4. **What is a Money Bill? Who decides whether a bill is a Money Bill?**
   Ans:- A Money Bill deals exclusively with financial matters like taxation, borrowing, and expenditure from the Consolidated Fund

of India. Only the Lok Sabha can introduce it. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha certifies whether a bill is a Money Bill, and this decision is final.

5. **Mention any two functions of Parliament in passing the Budget.**

- **Ans:-** Parliament approves the Demands for Grants, authorizing expenditure from the Consolidated Fund.
- Parliament passes the Finance Bill to legalize tax proposals and other revenue measures.

6. **What is a Finance Bill? How is it passed in Parliament?**

Ansl;- The Finance Bill contains proposals for taxation and other financial measures. It is introduced in the Lok Sabha after the Budget presentation. It follows the same procedure as an Ordinary Bill but must be passed for the budget's implementation.

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7. **Define "Vote on Account." Why is it used?**

Ans:- Vote on Account is a temporary grant to finance government expenditures before the full Budget is passed. It is used during elections or when the Budget cannot be passed before the fiscal year starts.

8. **What is a Cut Motion? Name its three types.**

Ans:- A Cut Motion is a motion in Parliament to reduce the amount of money allocated for a particular government demand. Its three types are:

- Policy Cut (disapprove government policy)
- Economy Cut (suggest saving specific amount)
- Token Cut (raise a grievance)

9. **Why is the approval of the Parliament necessary for government expenditure?**
   Ans:- Parliament's approval is necessary because all expenditures must be authorized by the people's representatives to ensure accountability and prevent misuse of public funds

10. **Differentiate between a Money Bill and a Finance Bill (any two points).**

- **Ans:-** A Money Bill deals strictly with only financial matters and requires Speaker's certification, while a Finance Bill may include financial and non-financial matters and does not always require certification.
- The Rajya Sabha can only recommend amendments to a Money Bill but has more powers to amend or reject a Finance Bill.

These answers provide clear, concise responses suitable for exam preparation or interview contexts.

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8-10 Marks

1. **Explain the meaning and objectives of the Union Budget.**
   Ans:- The Union Budget of India is a comprehensive financial statement presented annually by the government that outlines the estimated revenue and expenditure for the upcoming fiscal year. It serves as a crucial economic blueprint, reflecting the government's financial priorities, policies, and plans to foster balanced growth and social justice across the country. The budget is broadly divided into the Capital Budget, which focuses on long-term investments such as infrastructure projects, and the Revenue Budget, which deals with the government's regular income and day-to-day expenditure.

The primary objectives of the Union Budget are to ensure optimal allocation of resources to various sectors such as education, health, defense, and infrastructure, thereby promoting sustainable development. It aims to reduce unemployment and poverty through targeted schemes and job creation, and address income inequality with subsidies, tax reforms, and welfare programs. The budget also seeks to maintain economic stability by controlling inflation and deflation, ensuring price stability and protecting citizens' purchasing power. Additionally, it introduces tax structure modifications to generate necessary revenue while promoting fairness in the tax system. By balancing immediate economic needs with long-term strategic goals, the Union Budget sets the direction for the country's financial and economic future.

The Union Budget is more than just an annual financial report; it is a vital instrument through which the government charts the course for economic growth, social equity, and economic stability. Its objectives focus on fostering inclusive development, reducing disparities, and ensuring efficient resource utilization.

Understanding the Union Budget helps citizens grasp the government's financial strategy and its impact on various sectors, making it a cornerstone of India's democratic and economic governance.

2. **Describe the main components of the Union Budget.**

Ans:- The Union Budget of India is an annual financial statement presented by the government, detailing its estimated revenue and expenditure for the upcoming fiscal year. It serves as a strategic document that reflects the government's economic priorities, policy directions, and financial plans designed to promote growth, social welfare, and fiscal discipline. The Budget facilitates efficient

allocation of resources to various sectors and ensures financial accountability through legislative scrutiny.

The main components of the Union Budget can be broadly categorized into two: the Revenue Budget and the Capital Budget. The Revenue Budget consists of Revenue Receipts and Revenue Expenditure. Revenue Receipts include all government earnings that do not create liabilities, such as tax revenues (income tax, corporate tax, GST) and non-tax revenues (fees, interest, dividends). Revenue Expenditure encompasses the government's operational expenses like salaries, subsidies, and the costs involved in running public services. On the other hand, the Capital Budget includes Capital Receipts and Capital Expenditure. Capital Receipts involve funds that either create liabilities or reduce assets, such as loans raised from the public or recovery of loans. Capital Expenditure is spent on creating long-term assets like infrastructure development, machinery, schools, hospitals, and loans granted to states. Together, these components provide a comprehensive view of the government's financial planning and economic strategy.

The Union Budget is structured primarily around the Revenue and Capital Budgets, each containing receipts and expenditures critical for the nation’s economic management. This structure enables the government to plan its day-to-day functioning as well as its long-term developmental projects effectively. Understanding these components is essential to grasp how the government balances fiscal responsibility with the need for growth and social welfare.

3. **Explain the stages involved in the preparation of the Union Budget.**

Ans:- The preparation of the Union Budget is a comprehensive and carefully planned process that typically begins approximately six months before its presentation in Parliament. It involves multiple stages, engaging various government ministries, departments, and stakeholders to ensure a balanced and effective financial plan for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget serves as a financial blueprint reflecting the government's priorities, economic policies, and strategies for resource allocation.

The first stage is the initial preparation, where the Ministry of Finance issues budget circulars to all ministries and departments, instructing them to submit their provisional expenditures and revenue estimates for the coming year. This includes both revised estimates for the current year and fresh proposals for the next fiscal year. Simultaneously, the Economic Survey is prepared, providing an analysis of past performance and future prospects, which guides budget formulation. After receiving these estimates, the Finance Ministry scrutinizes and validates the data, consulting with ministries to finalize the budget ceilings.

Next is the pre-budget consultation phase, where the Finance Minister meets with stakeholders such as state representatives, economists, bankers, and trade unions to gather feedback and align priorities with broader economic goals. This phase also involves discussions at the highest government levels, including the Prime Minister and the Union Cabinet, to resolve any disagreements and finalize fiscal targets. One of the traditional milestones, the "Halwa Ceremony," marks the beginning of document printing and ensures strict confidentiality.

The final stage involves the presentation of the Budget in Parliament by the Finance Minister, usually on February 1. The presentation includes an elaborate speech outlining fiscal policies,

revenue and expenditure proposals, tax reforms, and key announcements. Following the presentation, the Budget undergoes parliamentary debates and detailed discussions by various committees. Upon approval by both houses and presidential assent, the Budget is enacted, and its implementation begins with ministries executing their allotted funds under Finance Ministry guidelines.

The Union Budget preparation encompasses systematic stages including initial submission, detailed evaluation, broad consultations, and formal presentation, ensuring a transparent and participatory financial planning process. This meticulous procedure helps align government spending with economic objectives, promotes fiscal responsibility, and enables Parliament to exercise effective control over public finances, thereby underpinning India's democratic governance.

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4. **Discuss the role of the finance minister in presenting the Union Budget.**

Ans:- The Finance Minister plays a pivotal role in the preparation and presentation of the Union Budget, which is the government's annual financial plan outlining expected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. As the chief economic spokesperson of the government, the Finance Minister is responsible for articulating the government's economic vision, fiscal policies, and budgetary priorities in Parliament. The presentation is a high-profile event that sets the tone for the government's economic agenda and development goals.

Before presenting the Budget, the Finance Minister coordinates with various ministries and departments to finalize budget

proposals based on inputs from detailed reviews and consultations. The Minister chairs the Cabinet meeting that approves the budget proposals to ensure they align with the government's political and economic objectives. During the parliamentary session, the Finance Minister delivers a comprehensive budget speech that highlights key fiscal policies, sectoral allocations, tax reforms, and economic strategies to promote growth, employment, and social welfare. She or he also explains the anticipated fiscal deficit, borrowing plans, expenditure priorities, and revenue generation measures, providing a roadmap of how the government plans to manage and utilize public resources.

Post budget presentation, the Finance Minister defends the budget proposals in the Lok Sabha debates, addresses queries from Members of Parliament, and engages with financial institutions and the media to explain its implications and promote investor confidence. The Minister also participates in various post-budget press conferences and meetings with key economic players such as the Reserve Bank of India to discuss implementation and impact.

The Finance Minister is central to the Union Budget process, serving as the architect and chief advocate of the government's fiscal policy. By coordinating preparation, presenting the budget, explaining policies, and engaging stakeholders, the Finance Minister ensures that the Union Budget is not only a financial statement but also a strategic economic tool to guide the country's development and maintain fiscal discipline.

5. **Explain the procedure of passing the Union Budget in Parliament.**

Ans:- The procedure for passing the Union Budget in the Indian Parliament is a detailed and constitutionally mandated process that

ensures democratic scrutiny and approval of government expenditure and revenue proposals. The process involves several key stages beginning with the presentation of the Budget and culminating in the enactment of laws enabling the government to raise and spend funds for the upcoming financial year.

Initially, the Finance Minister presents the Budget, also known as the Annual Financial Statement, in the Lok Sabha, outlining the revenue receipts, expenditure estimates, taxation proposals, and fiscal policies. This presentation is followed by a general discussion in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, where members debate the broad principles and priorities of the Budget without voting. Next, detailed scrutiny is done by the Departmentally Related Standing Committees, which examine the demands for grants of various ministries, submit reports, and recommend adjustments. Based on these reports, the Lok Sabha begins voting on each Demands for Grants separately, which is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha; the Rajya Sabha can only discuss but cannot vote on these demands.

After the voting on Demands for Grants, two important bills are introduced and passed. The Appropriation Bill authorizes the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet various expenditures approved by Parliament. Without the passage of this bill, no money can be legally spent. Following this, the Finance Bill containing provisions related to taxation and other financial matters is introduced. Once the Finance Bill is passed by both Houses and receives presidential assent, it becomes the Finance Act, thereby legitimizing the income side of the Budget and completing the legislative process for the financial year's Budget.

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The procedure for passing the Union Budget is a comprehensive multi-stage process that ensures legislative oversight, debate, and approval of the government's financial plans. This ensures transparency, accountability, and democratic control over public finances, allowing Parliament to scrutinize and regulate government spending and taxation effectively. By following this procedure, the Union Budget reflects a collective decision on the nation's economic priorities and the lawful sanctioning of public expenditure.

6. **Describe the role of the Lok Sabha in approving the Union Budget.**

Ans:- The Lok Sabha plays a central and decisive role in approving the Union Budget, which is the annual financial statement of the government detailing revenue and expenditure plans. As the directly elected house of Parliament, Lok Sabha exercises exclusive powers in financial matters, making its approval vital to the government's ability to spend public funds. The Constitution ensures that no money can be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India without parliamentary sanction, which primarily rests with Lok Sabha.

The process begins with the presentation of the Budget by the Finance Minister in the Lok Sabha. After a general discussion on the broad principles of the Budget, detailed examination follows where demands for grants—estimates of expenditure ministries seek—are sent to Departmentally Related Standing Committees for scrutiny. These committees submit reports which Lok Sabha uses as a basis for voting on each demand separately. Importantly, only Lok Sabha members have voting rights on these demands; the Rajya Sabha can only discuss but not vote on them. Lok Sabha can

accept, reject, or reduce the amounts demanded, but cannot increase them. This exclusive authority is a crucial check on government spending by representatives directly accountable to the public.

Following the voting on demands for grants, Lok Sabha considers the Appropriation Bill, which legally authorizes the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund to meet approved expenditures. After passing this bill, Lok Sabha also scrutinizes and passes the Finance Bill, which contains taxation proposals and other financial provisions. The Finance Bill, often classified as a Money Bill, requires only Lok Sabha's approval, although the Rajya Sabha can offer recommendations. Once both bills are passed, they become law after the President's assent, completing the parliamentary approval process.

The Lok Sabha's role in approving the Union Budget is fundamental to India's democratic governance and fiscal accountability. By holding exclusive voting powers on expenditure demands and key financial legislation, Lok Sabha ensures effective parliamentary control over public funds. This responsibility reflects the principle that financial power lies with the people's elected representatives, reinforcing transparency and responsible government spending.

7. **Explain the role of the Rajya Sabha in passing the Union Budget.**

Ans:- The Rajya Sabha plays a significant but limited role in the process of passing the Union Budget in India. While the Lok Sabha holds primary powers regarding financial legislation, including voting on demands for grants and passing key financial bills, the Rajya Sabha participates mainly through discussions and

recommendations on the Budget. This role ensures legislative oversight from the upper house while respecting the constitutional supremacy of the Lok Sabha in financial matters.

After the Finance Minister presents the Budget in the Lok Sabha, the Union Budget document is laid before the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha members then discuss the general principles and policies underlying the Budget. However, unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha does not have the power to vote on the Demands for Grants, which represent detailed expenditure proposals of various ministries. It can debate, deliberate, and suggest changes but cannot reject or amend money bills, including the Finance Bill. The Rajya Sabha must return the Money Bill to the Lok Sabha within fourteen days, either with or without recommendations. The Lok Sabha may accept or reject these suggestions but is not obliged to incorporate them.

Furthermore, the Rajya Sabha can recommend amendments to the Finance Bill if it is classified as a financial bill (other than a Money Bill), and both Houses have equal powers in passing such bills. The Rajya Sabha's involvement provides a forum for further scrutiny and helps refine budgetary provisions through constructive debate. However, the final authority in money matters rests with the Lok Sabha, reflecting the direct electoral mandate of its members.

The Rajya Sabha’s role in passing the Union Budget is primarily advisory and deliberative. While it cannot vote on expenditure demands or reject money bills, its power to debate and recommend improvements contributes to the legislative oversight and transparency of the budgetary process. This structure balances democratic legitimacy with detailed parliamentary scrutiny,

reinforcing the overall accountability of the government in managing public finances.

8. **Discuss the significance of the Annual Financial Statement under Article 112.**

Ans:- Article 112 of the Indian Constitution mandates the presentation of the Annual Financial Statement, popularly known as the Union Budget, before both Houses of Parliament every year. This statement outlines the estimated receipts and expenditures of the Government of India for the upcoming financial year. It serves as the foundational financial document that sets the government's fiscal policy and budgetary priorities, encapsulating projected income and planned expenditures in a transparent and accountable manner. The Article ensures that the government's financial plans are subject to parliamentary scrutiny and approval, thereby grounding fiscal governance firmly within the democratic framework.

The significance of the Annual Financial Statement lies in its role as the legal and constitutional basis for the government's authority to raise and spend funds during the fiscal year. It distinguishes between expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India, such as salaries of constitutional functionaries and debt-related payments, which are not subject to vote in Parliament, and other expenditures that require parliamentary approval through voting. This division preserves the financial independence of certain constitutional offices while maintaining parliamentary control over most government spending. Further, the statement aids in fiscal discipline by categorizing receipts and expenditures into revenue and capital accounts, thus facilitating clarity and effective budgetary management. By laying this statement before

Parliament, the government is constitutionally obligated to justify its financial needs and policies, promoting transparency, accountability, and public trust.

The Annual Financial Statement under Article 112 is a cornerstone of India's budgetary system and democratic accountability. Its constitutional mandate to present estimated receipts and expenditures before Parliament ensures that government finances are planned with transparency and subjected to legislative oversight. This not only legitimizes government spending but also reinforces the principle that fiscal power ultimately rests with the representatives of the people, thereby strengthening the financial governance and democratic processes in India.

9. **Explain the difference between Vote on Account, Supplementary Grant, and Cut Motions.**

Ans:- The concepts of Vote on Account, Supplementary Grant, and Cut Motions are crucial elements within India's parliamentary financial procedures, each serving distinct purposes in managing government expenditure. Understanding these differences helps clarify how the government seeks parliamentary approval for funds at various stages during the fiscal year.

A Vote on Account is a special provision allowing the government to obtain advance approval from Parliament to withdraw money for a limited period, typically a few months, pending the full approval of the annual budget. It is essentially a temporary grant enabling the government to meet its ongoing expenses such as salaries and subsidies without disruption while the Budget is being finalized. This ensures the continuity of government functioning during transition periods, such as before a full Budget presentation or during an election year.

Supplementary Grants, on the other hand, are additional funds requested by the government during the financial year when the sanctioned budget proves insufficient to meet unforeseen or excess expenditure. Supplementary Grants are sought to cover gaps arising due to emergencies, price variations, or new policy demands not accounted for in the original budget. These grants require specific parliamentary approval and are presented with detailed justifications.

Cut Motions represent a parliamentary mechanism by which members can propose reductions in the amounts of money allocated for specific services or demand heads in the budget. It is a tool for exercising parliamentary control and expressing dissatisfaction or opposition to government policies or expenditures. There are three types of Cut Motions — policy cuts, economy cuts, and token cuts — which respectively aim to challenge policies, reduce unnecessary expenditure, or symbolically criticize without actual reduction.

While the Vote on Account facilitates the uninterrupted functioning of the government by allowing preliminary expenditure approval, Supplementary Grants cater to unplanned financial needs during the year. Cut Motions empower Parliament to actively control and critique government expenditure. Together, these provisions ensure a balanced approach to fiscal management, combining flexibility for governance with parliamentary oversight and accountability.

10. Discuss how the Parliament exercises control over public expenditure

Ans:- Parliament exercises control over public expenditure to ensure transparency, accountability, and proper utilization of public funds by the Executive. This control is essential in a democratic setup where public money is raised and spent under the authority of elected representatives. The Indian Constitution empowers Parliament with exclusive rights to authorize taxation and authorize government spending, thus establishing a system of checks and balances between the legislature and the Executive.
The control exercised by Parliament occurs at multiple stages. Initially, it scrutinizes and approves the annual budget presented by the government, where each ministry's Demands for Grants are debated and voted on. Departmentally Related Standing Committees play an important role by detailed examination of these demands before they are voted upon in the House. Parliament also debates the Appropriation Bill, which authorizes the withdrawal of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India, preventing unauthorized expenditure. Further control mechanisms include discussions, questions, and cut motions during parliamentary sessions, which MPs use to question and critique government spending and policy implementation.
Beyond budget approval, Parliament oversees actual expenditure through the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and Parliamentary Committees like the Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee, and Committee on Public Undertakings. These committees examine compliance, financial propriety, and the efficiency of government programs. They can summon government officials, scrutinize audit findings, and recommend corrective actions. Such post-expenditure oversight ensures that funds serve their intended purposes and discourages misuse or wastage.

Parliament's control over public expenditure is a vital aspect of democratic governance in India. Through budgetary approval, parliamentary debates, detailed committee scrutiny, and audit oversight, Parliament ensures responsible and transparent use of public resources. This comprehensive system strengthens fiscal discipline, holds the Executive accountable, and upholds public trust in government financial management.

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