

Composition and Functions of Parliament(Raiya Sabha and Lok Sabha)

Parliament of India

The Parliament is the supreme legislative body in India, composed of two houses: the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

Lok Sabha

Composition:

- **Members:** Maximum of 552 members.
 - **Elected Members:** 543 are directly elected by the people through general elections.
 - **Nominated Members:** 2 members are nominated by the President from the Anglo-Indian community (Note: This provision is now abolished).
- **Term:** The Lok Sabha has a term of five years, but it can be dissolved earlier.

Functions:

1. **Legislative Functions:**
 - Proposes, debates, and passes laws.
 - Can initiate money bills (bills related to taxation and government spending).
2. **Representation:**
 - Represents the diverse interests and opinions of the electorate.
 - Members are elected from various constituencies across the country.
3. **Control Over the Executive:**
 - The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
 - Can pass a vote of no-confidence against the government.
4. **Financial Functions:**
 - All money bills must be introduced in the Lok Sabha.
 - Examines and approves the annual budget.
5. **Oversight Functions:**
 - Conducts inquiries into government activities and expenditures.
 - Holds question hours where ministers answer queries from members.

Rajya Sabha

Composition:

- **Members:** Maximum of 250 members.
 - **Elected Members:** 238 are elected by the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies and Union territories.

- **Nominated Members:** 12 are nominated by the President for their expertise in various fields such as literature, science, art, and social service.
- **Term:** Members serve staggered terms of six years; one-third of its members retire every two years.

Functions:

1. **Legislative Functions:**
 - Can introduce and debate bills (except money bills).
 - Acts as a revising chamber for legislation passed by the Lok Sabha.
2. **Representation of States:**
 - Represents the interests of the states and Union territories at the national level.
 - Ensures federal principles are upheld.
3. **Review Functions:**
 - Reviews and suggests amendments to legislation.
 - Can delay legislation but cannot ultimately block it if passed by the Lok Sabha.
4. **Control Over the Executive:**
 - Can question ministers and hold discussions on various issues.
 - Plays a role in the impeachment process of the President.
5. **Special Powers:**
 - Can recommend the creation of new states or alteration of boundaries of existing states.

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha play vital roles in the legislative process in India, each with distinct powers and functions that contribute to the democratic framework of the country. Together, they ensure representation, accountability, and a system of checks and balances within the government.