

The budget: procedure of formulation

In the Indian parliamentary system, a "budget" refers to the Annual Financial Statement presented by the Finance Minister in the Parliament. This statement outlines the government's estimated revenue and proposed expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year, typically from April 1st to March 31st. The budget includes both the revenue budget, which lists the government's expected income from various sources, and the expenditure budget, which outlines how these funds will be allocated to different ministries, departments, and programs.

The budget presentation is a significant event in the Indian parliamentary calendar and is accompanied by the Finance Minister's budget speech. This speech not only discusses the financial aspects but also highlights the government's economic policies, goals, and priorities for the upcoming year.

The budget serves as a blueprint for the government's financial activities and plays a crucial role in shaping the country's economic direction. It is subject to debates, discussions, and approvals in both houses of Parliament before it becomes law and guides government spending for the fiscal year.

India involves several stages:

1. Pre-Budget Consultations: The government seeks input from various stakeholders, including ministries, departments, industry representatives, and the public.
2. Budget Estimates Preparation: Ministries and departments submit their estimates for the upcoming fiscal year, including expenditure and revenue projections.

3. **Expenditure Budget:** The Finance Ministry reviews and consolidates the expenditure proposals from different departments, considering their priorities and feasibility.
4. **Revenue Budget:** This includes estimates of government revenue from taxes, non-tax sources, and grants.
5. **Budget Speech:** The Finance Minister presents the budget in Parliament, outlining the government's fiscal policies, economic priorities, and allocation of funds.
6. **Discussion and Approval:** Both houses of Parliament debate the budget, and after any necessary modifications, it's put to a vote. Once approved, it becomes law.
7. **Passage and Appropriation Bills:** The budget is enacted through the Appropriation Bill, which authorizes government expenditure. A Finance Bill is also passed to give legal effect to the taxation proposals.
8. **Implementation and Monitoring:** Ministries and departments execute the budget allocations according to their plans, and the Finance Ministry monitors their spending throughout the fiscal year.
9. **Mid-Year Review:** Sometimes, a mid-year review is conducted to assess the budget's progress and make adjustments if needed.

It's important to note that the budget formulation process can vary based on changes in government, economic conditions, and other factors.

Motions in parliament

There are several types of motions that Members of Parliament (MPs) can raise during parliamentary proceedings. Here are some of the key types of motions:

1. **Adjournment Motion:** This motion is used to adjourn the business of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. It requires the support of a specified number of MPs.
2. **No-Confidence Motion:** This motion is brought against the Council of Ministers to test their majority in the House. If passed, the government is required to resign.
3. **Censure Motion:** This motion is a strong form of parliamentary criticism against the government's policies or actions. It expresses a lack of confidence in the government.

4. Call Attention Motion: MPs use this motion to draw the attention of a minister to a specific matter of public importance and seek an explanation.
5. Privilege Motion: This motion is raised when a breach of privilege or contempt of the House by a member or an outsider is alleged.
6. Point of Order: An MP raises a point of order to seek the Speaker's clarification on the interpretation or application of parliamentary rules and procedures.
7. Substantive Motion: It is a motion that proposes a substantive matter for discussion and decision in the House, such as a bill or a resolution.
8. Subsidiary Motion: This motion is related to the proceedings of the House, such as amendments, procedural matters, and references to committees.
9. The motion of Thanks: This motion is moved to thank the President for their address to both Houses of Parliament at the beginning of a new session.
10. Motion for Rule: An MP may move a motion to amend, repeal, or enact a rule of procedure of the House.
11. Motion for Leave to Introduce a Bill: An MP seeks the permission of the House to introduce a bill.

These motions serve various purposes within the parliamentary process, allowing MPs to debate, discuss, and take decisions on different matters. Each motion follows specific rules and procedures defined by the parliamentary rules of procedure.

Parliamentary rules of procedure.

In the Indian Parliament, several devices of parliamentary procedure are used to facilitate the smooth functioning of the legislative process. These devices help regulate debates, discussions, decision-making, and overall proceedings. Here are some key parliamentary devices used in the Indian Parliament:

1. Question Hour: This is the first hour of a parliamentary sitting, during which MPs can ask questions of ministers to seek information on various matters related to their ministries.

2. Zero Hour: This is an informal practice that allows MPs to raise matters of urgent public importance after Question Hour.
3. Calling Attention: MPs use this device to call the attention of a minister to a specific matter and seek an explanation.
4. Short Duration Discussions: These are brief discussions on matters of public importance, often followed by a motion or resolution.
5. Adjournment Motions: MPs can move this motion to adjourn the proceedings of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance.
6. Point of Order: MPs raise a point of order to seek the Speaker's clarification on the interpretation or application of parliamentary rules.
7. Motions of No-Confidence and Censure: These motions are used to express a lack of confidence in the government or its policies.
8. Privilege Motions: These motions are raised when there is an alleged breach of privilege or contempt of the House.
9. Substantive Motions: These motions propose substantive matters for discussion and decision in the House, such as bills and resolutions.
10. Committee Reports and Recommendations: Various parliamentary committees present reports and recommendations on specific matters, which are then discussed in the House.
11. Discussion on President's Address: The President's address to both Houses at the beginning of a new session is followed by a discussion on the matters outlined in the address.
12. Debate on Bills: Both Houses engage in detailed discussions on bills before they are passed into law.
13. Division of Votes: When there's a difference of opinion on a matter, a division is called, and MPs cast their votes.

These parliamentary devices ensure that discussions and decisions in the Indian Parliament are conducted in an organized and structured manner, allowing MPs to voice their concerns, debate policies, and contribute to the legislative process effectively.

Different types of legislative committees in the Indian Parliament:

Standing Committees: These are permanent committees that are constituted to consider and report on various bills, budgets, and government policies. They play a vital role in scrutinizing the work of the government.

Select Committees: These committees are formed for a specific purpose, usually to study and report on a particular bill. They are temporary and cease to exist once their assigned task is completed.

Joint Committees: These committees consist of members from both the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). They are created to deal with matters of common interest and perform specific functions like examining bills.

Estimates Committee: It reviews the estimates included in the annual budget of the government and examines if the funds are allocated correctly and effectively.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC): It examines the audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and ensures that public money is spent efficiently and for the intended purposes.

Committee on Public Undertakings: This committee examines the performance and management of public sector undertakings and enterprises.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation: It examines the rules, regulations, and other subsidiary legislation issued by the executive authorities and ensures they are within the scope of the parent legislation.

Committee on Petitions: This committee considers representations and petitions submitted by citizens on various issues and matters of public interest.

Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes: It examines matters related to the welfare and development of these marginalized communities.

Committee on Empowerment of Women: This committee focuses on issues related to the empowerment and welfare of women in the country.

An ad hoc committee in the Indian Parliament is a committee that is formed for a specific and temporary purpose. Unlike standing committees, which are permanent and cover a wide range of subjects, ad hoc committees are set up to deal with particular issues or tasks. These committees are dissolved once they have completed their assigned task or achieved their objective.

An example of an ad hoc committee is the Select Committee that is formed to study and provide recommendations on a specific bill before it is passed into law. Once the committee completes its review and submits its report, it is disbanded.

The formation of departmental standing committee India

In India, departmental standing committees were formulated on the advice of the Lok Sabha Rules committee. The formation took place in the year 1993 and we got almost seventeen different committees. But gradually the need was felt for more committees. As a result, the number was raised to twenty-four in the year 2004.

Even before 1993, we had certain departmental committees to overlook the work of executives. For instance, the agricultural, environmental, science, and technology sector was overlooked by almost three standing committees in the year 1989. This helped the government in formulating effective policies for these sectors.

Gradually these standing committees were replaced by department-oriented committees. This is why today we have almost twenty-four departmental

standing committees in India composed of members from both upper and lower houses of the parliament.

According to Article 118(1) of the Constitution, Each House of Parliament may create rules to govern the procedure and conduct of its business. The Rules Committee makes recommendations for modifications to Lok Sabha's Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. Similarly, the Committee on Rules in the Rajya Sabha performs these functions.

In this article, we will look at the composition, Quorum, and functions of this Committee in brief.

What is the Rules Committee?

- If the rules of the house need to be changed, this committee provides a recommendation.
- The Committee is present in both houses of the parliament.
- **Composition & Chairman:** It consists of 15 members in Lok Sabha headed by the Speaker and 16 members in Rajya Sabha headed by the ex-officio Chairperson.
- **Quorum:** There is no such quorum defined.
- **Special Invitees:** If the Deputy Speaker is not part of the committee then he is invited.
 - As per convention, the Minister of parliamentary affairs is also invited.
- **Functions:** To evaluate matters of procedure and business conduct in the Lok Sabha, and to make any necessary adjustments or additions to the Rules.
- **Report:** The Committee will lay the report on the table of the house.