

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

1. Find out how many representatives from your state are in each House of the Parliament.

Ans. Every state in India has representatives in both Houses of Parliament. In my state, Uttar Pradesh, there are 80 members in the Lok Sabha. These members are directly elected by the people. There are also 31 members from Uttar Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha. These members are elected by the state legislators. So, Uttar Pradesh has 80 representatives in the Lok Sabha and 31 in the Rajya Sabha. This shows how important my state is in making laws and decisions for the country.

For reference, the number of representatives from other states are also given below.

Region	State	Lok Sabha Members	Rajya Sabha Members
North	Uttar Pradesh	80	31
	Punjab	13	7
South	Tamil Nadu	39	18
	Karnataka	28	12
East	Bihar	40	16
	Odisha	21	10
West	Maharashtra	48	19
	Gujarat	26	11
North-East	Assam	14	7
	Manipur	2	1

2. What makes the Indian Parliament the 'voice of the people'? How does it ensure that different opinions are heard?

Ans. The Indian Parliament is called the "voice of the people" because it is made up of representatives who speak on behalf of the citizens. Members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected by the people, while members of the Rajya Sabha are indirectly elected by the state legislatures, this system ensures that people from every region, including marginalised communities, are represented.

To ensure different opinions are heard, Parliament uses:

- Question Hour: Members of Parliament (MPs) ask the government questions to hold it accountable and raise important issues.
- Debates and Discussions: MPs from different parties and backgrounds discuss laws, national issues, and ideas. This allows different opinions to be heard before making any decisions.
- Parliamentary Committees: Standing Committees examine bills, budgets, and policies regularly.

3. Why do you think the Constitution made the Executive responsible to the Legislature?

Ans. The Constitution made the Executive (such as the Prime Minister, ministers, and civil servants) responsible to the Legislature (Parliament) to ensure that the government remains accountable to the people. This system keeps the government in check and ensures it serves the people's interests.

- (i) It prevents the misuse of power and ensures that leaders act within their limits.
- (ii) Ministers must take responsibility for their decisions and actions in Parliament, making them answerable to people.
- (iii) This structure strengthens democracy by making the government transparent and responsible to citizens.

4. Why do you think we have chosen the system of bicameral legislature at the Union level?

Ans. The Constitution makers decided on a bicameral legislature after careful discussion.

- (i) They believed that a single House would not adequately represent the diversity and aspirations of our large and diverse country, India.
- (ii) Therefore, the Rajya Sabha was established to reflect the federal spirit, diversity, and interests of the states.
- (iii) The Rajya Sabha has a different structure and election process from the Lok Sabha.
- (iv) India follows a federal system, where power is shared between the centre, states and local governments.
- (v) This system helps balance national unity and regional interests.
- (vi) Thus, the bicameral legislature ensures fair representation for everyone.

5. Try to track the journey of a recent bill passed by the Parliament. Identify in which House it was introduced. Were there any major debates or disagreements? How long did it take for the bill to become a law? Use newspaper archives, government websites, and Lok Sabha debates, or ask your teacher for help.

Ans. The Women's Reservation Bill, aimed at reserving 33% of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, had a long journey. It was first introduced in 1996 but faced numerous delays. After several attempts, the bill was reintroduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th September 2023. It sparked debates on women's political representation. Despite some disagreements, it was passed the Lok Sabha on 21st September 2023, with 454 votes in favour and 2 against. The bill was then sent to the Rajya Sabha, where it was also passed on 21st September 2023, with all 215 members present voting in favour. After being passed by both Houses of Parliament, the Bill received the President's assent on 28th September 2023, officially becoming The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023. It took 27 years for the bill to be passed. This highlights the challenges in increasing women's participation in politics.

6. The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, was passed with wide support. Why might it have taken over 25 years for this bill to be passed, despite being discussed for so long?

Ans. The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023 took 25 years to pass due to several reasons:

- (i) Parties had different views on the reservation structure. Some demanded sub-reservation for women from OBCs (Other Backward Classes) within the 33% quota, while others opposed this.

(ii) Reserving seats for women meant many male members would lose their positions, causing resistance within political parties.

(iii) Although no major party openly opposed the bill, there was an absence of strong political support to prioritise and pass it. It was often treated more as a symbolic promise than a serious legislative agenda.

7. Sometimes the Parliament is disrupted and does not function for the number of days it is supposed to. What impact do you think this has on the quality of laws and the trust people place in their representatives?

Ans. When Parliament is disrupted and does not function for its scheduled number of days, it affects both the quality of laws and the public's trust in representatives.

(i) Important bills may be rushed through without proper debate, leading to incomplete or ineffective laws.

(ii) Continuous disruptions make people lose faith in their elected representatives, reducing voter turnout and civic participation.

(iii) Frequent disruptions lead to a huge waste of both human and financial resources, which could be used for development.

(iv) Such behaviour in Parliament discourages young, talented people from entering politics. As a result, Parliament is being represented by mediocre leaders rather than the brightest minds of the country.

(v) In the long run, these disruptions weaken democratic institutions and derail the aspirations and dreams of the nation. It affects the future of the people and the progress of the country as a whole.

8. What is the role that the Judiciary plays in Indian democracy? What could happen if we didn't have an independent judiciary?

Ans. Indian democracy thrives with equal and important roles played by the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. The Judiciary has a special role in protecting democracy.

(i) The Judiciary ensures all laws and government actions follow the Constitution. Through judicial review, it can strike down any law or action that violates constitutional principles.

(ii) Citizens can approach the High Courts or the Supreme Court if any law or government action infringes their fundamental rights. The Judiciary protects individual freedoms and ensure justice.

(iii) The Judiciary acts as an impartial umpire in resolving disputes between citizens and the government, or between different levels of government.

If we didn't have an independent judiciary, the government could pass unfair laws without being stopped. People's rights might not be protected, and justice could become biased, leading to a loss of trust in the democratic system of India.