



Learn the Types of Bills in Parliament for WBP Constable Exam

In the vast landscape of parliamentary proceedings, the concept of bills holds a pivotal place. Aspiring candidates preparing for the WBP Constable Exam need to have a strong grasp of these legislative instruments that can shape the destiny of a nation. A bill is not just a piece of paper; it represents the hopes, concerns, and aspirations of millions. In this comprehensive guide, we delve into the intricate world of bills in the Indian Parliament.

We will unravel the different types of bills, from Money Bills to Private Members' Bills, and explore the nuances that set them apart. Understanding the role and significance of these bills is essential for anyone aspiring to be a part of the nation's law enforcement agencies. So, let's embark on this journey to demystify the legislative machinery and equip ourselves for success in the WBP Constable Exam.

This is the third part of our '**Indian Parliament**' series. If you haven't read the second blog i.e. [Types of Motion in Parliament](#), then click on the embedded link and read it first. Now let's move on to the **types of Bills in Parliament**.

Types of Bills in Parliament

We've discussed about the Censure motion in our previous blogs. Let's revise some of its points to connect it with the types of Bills.

Censure Motion at a Glance:

- It stands for strong disapproval or harsh criticism.
- It is generally introduced by the opposition in the house against the policies of the Government or an individual minister. However, it can also be passed to criticize, condemn, censure some act calling Attention Motion
- It is a type of motion introduced by a member to call the attention of a minister to a matter of urgent public importance.
- The minister is expected to make a respective statement from him on that matter. It could be introduced in any house of the parliament. Bill and Types of bills in the Parliament
- A Bill is a draft statute (proposal) or an initial process in the lawmaking process, which turns into a law (Act) only if it is passed by both the Houses of Parliament and agreed to by the President. All legislative proposals are brought before Parliament in the structures of Bills.
- Bills might be broadly classified into Government Bills and Private Members'. Bills depending upon their start in the House by a Minister or a Private Member.



[Source: India Today]

However, procedurally, the Bills are classified as:

- Ordinary Bills
- Money Bills and Financial Bills
- Ordinance Replacing Bills and
- Constitution Amendment Bills

Now, let's discuss these bills in detail.

Ordinary Bills

Ordinary bills deal with a wide range of matters, including:

- Amending or repealing existing laws
- Introducing new laws on various subjects, such as civil law, criminal law, social welfare, economic policy, and environmental protection

An ordinary bill can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha (Lower House) or the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) by:

- A minister on behalf of the executive branch
- A private member of Parliament

The passage of an ordinary bill through the Parliament involves the following steps:



Learn the Types of Bills in Parliament for WBP Constable Exam

- 1. Introduction and First Reading:** The bill is introduced and published in the Gazette of India.
- 2. Reference to a Select Committee (Optional):** The bill may be referred to a select committee for detailed examination and scrutiny.
- 3. Second Reading:** The bill is debated clause by clause, and amendments can be proposed.
- 4. Committee Stage:** The bill is referred to a committee of the whole house for further discussion and amendments.
- 5. Third Reading:** The bill is considered in its entirety, and further amendments can be proposed.
- 6. Transmission to the Other House:** If passed by the house where it was introduced, the bill is transmitted to the other house for consideration.
- 7. Consideration in the Other House:** The bill undergoes the same process of second reading, committee stage, and third reading in the other house.
- 8. President's Assent:** Once passed by both houses in identical form, the bill is sent to the President for assent.

Additional Details:

- Ordinary bills are distinguished from money bills, which deal with financial matters such as taxation and public expenditure.
- The President may either give assent to the bill, making it a law, or withhold assent, sending it back to Parliament for reconsideration.
- Ordinary bills play a crucial role in the legislative process, enabling the Parliament to introduce new laws or modify existing ones to address the changing needs of society and adapt to emerging challenges.

Examples of Ordinary Bills:

- The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2012, which amended the Indian Penal Code to introduce new provisions on sexual offenses.
- The Right to Education Act, 2009, which guaranteed free and compulsory elementary education to all children aged 6 to 14.
- The Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2016, which introduced a unified indirect tax system across India.

Money Bills and Financial Bills

Money Bills:

A Money Bill is a specific type of bill introduced in the Lok Sabha (Lower House) of the Parliament of India, dealing with matters related to public revenue and expenditure. These bills have special constitutional privileges and procedures for their passage compared to other bills.



Learn the Types of Bills in Parliament for WBP Constable Exam

Introduction and Exclusive Privilege:

A Money Bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha on the recommendation of the President of India. This exclusive privilege highlights the crucial role of the executive branch in financial matters.

Passage and Limited Rajya Sabha Role:

After introduction, a Money Bill is passed through the Lok Sabha like an ordinary bill. However, the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) has limited powers regarding Money Bills. It can only make recommendations to the Lok Sabha, which can accept or reject them. If the Lok Sabha insists on its original form, the bill is deemed to have been passed by both houses.

President's Assent and Limited Veto Power:

Once passed by the Lok Sabha, a Money Bill is sent to the President for assent. Unlike ordinary bills, the President cannot withhold assent to a Money Bill. However, if the President feels that the bill is not in consonance with the Constitution, they can refer it to the Supreme Court for an advisory opinion.

Examples of Money Bills:

- The Finance Bill, which proposes annual taxes and expenditures for the government.
- The Appropriation Bill, which authorizes the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for specific purposes.

Financial Bills:

A Financial Bill is a broader category that includes Money Bills and other bills that deal with financial matters, such as borrowing, banking, and currency. These bills are introduced in either house of Parliament and follow the regular legislative process.

Introduction and Passage:

A Financial Bill can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. It undergoes the regular legislative process, including introduction, second reading, committee stage, third reading, and transmission to the other house.

Rajya Sabha's Full Powers:

Unlike Money Bills, the Rajya Sabha has full powers regarding Financial Bills. It can amend, discuss, and vote on these bills, just like the Lok Sabha.

President's Assent and Full Veto Power:

After passage by both houses, a Financial Bill is sent to the President for assent. The President has full veto power over Financial Bills, meaning they can either give assent or withhold assent.

Examples of Financial Bills:



Learn the Types of Bills in Parliament for WBP Constable Exam

- The Banking Regulation Act (Amendment) Bill, which proposes changes to the regulatory framework for banks.
- The Customs Tariff Act (Amendment) Bill, which alters customs duties and other levies on imported goods.

Distinction between Money Bills and Financial Bills:

The key distinction between Money Bills and Financial Bills lies in their origin and the Rajya Sabha's role. Money Bills originate exclusively in the Lok Sabha and have limited Rajya Sabha involvement, while Financial Bills can originate in either house and the Rajya Sabha has full powers regarding them.

Significance of Money Bills and Financial Bills:

Money Bills and Financial Bills play a crucial role in the Indian Parliament's financial oversight and control of the government's fiscal policies. These bills ensure that the government's revenue and expenditure are scrutinized and approved by the legislature, upholding the principles of financial accountability and transparency.

Ordinance Replacing Bills

An Ordinance Replacing Bill is a type of bill introduced in either house of the Parliament of India to replace an ordinance promulgated by the President when the Parliament is not in session. Ordinances are temporary measures issued by the President to address urgent matters when the Parliament is not in session. They have the same force as a law but must be replaced by a bill within six weeks of the reassembly of the Parliament.

Introduction and Need:

An Ordinance Replacing Bill is introduced in the house where the ordinance was laid before the Parliament. The need for an Ordinance Replacing Bill arises when the Parliament is not in session and the government needs to take immediate action on a matter that cannot wait for the Parliament to reconvene.

Passage and Retrospective Effect:

An Ordinance Replacing Bill follows the regular legislative process, including introduction, second reading, committee stage, third reading, and transmission to the other house. Upon its passage by both houses and assent by the President, the bill replaces the ordinance and its provisions have retrospective effect from the date of promulgation of the ordinance.

Reasons for Introducing Ordinance Replacing Bills:

There are several reasons why the government may introduce an Ordinance Replacing Bill:

- To address urgent matters that cannot wait for the Parliament to reconvene, such as natural disasters or national security threats.
- To implement policy changes or introduce new legislation that requires immediate action.
- To provide temporary relief to a particular section of society or address pressing economic issues.

Criticisms of Ordinance Replacing Bills:

The use of Ordinance Replacing Bills has been criticized on several grounds:

- It bypasses the parliamentary process and reduces the scrutiny of legislation.
- It can be used by the government to circumvent parliamentary debate and public consultation.
- It can lead to arbitrary and hasty decisions without proper consideration of all aspects of the issue.

Guidelines for Promulgating Ordinances:

To ensure the proper use of ordinances and Ordinance Replacing Bills, the following guidelines have been laid down:

- Ordinances should be issued only in exceptional circumstances when the Parliament is not in session and immediate action is required.
- The ordinance should be laid before both houses of Parliament within six weeks of their reassembly.
- An Ordinance Replacing Bill should be introduced in the house where the ordinance was laid to replace it within six weeks of the reassembly of the Parliament.
- The government should provide clear justification for the need to promulgate an ordinance and introduce an Ordinance Replacing Bill.

Examples of Ordinance Replacing Bills:

- The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance (Replacing) Bill, 2018, which replaced an ordinance amending the Indian Penal Code to introduce stricter punishments for sexual offenses.
- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance (Replacing) Bill, 2020, which replaced an ordinance allowing farmers to sell their produce outside of the government-mandated mandis.
- The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance (Replacing) Bill, 2020, which replaced an ordinance giving more powers to the government to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.



[Source: The Print]



Ordinance Replacing Bills play a role in providing immediate legislative solutions to urgent matters when the Parliament is not in session. However, their use should be carefully considered and justified, and they should not be used to circumvent the parliamentary process or undermine public scrutiny of legislation.

Constitution Amendment Bills

A Constitution Amendment Bill is a special type of bill introduced in the Parliament of India to amend the provisions of the Constitution of India. The Constitution of India is the supreme law of the land, and any changes to its provisions require a special legislative process.

Introduction and Special Requirements:

A Constitution Amendment Bill can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha (Lower House) or the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) by a minister on behalf of the government. However, unlike ordinary bills, Constitution Amendment Bills must fulfill specific requirements:

- A Constitution Amendment Bill must be supported by a special majority, meaning at least two-thirds of the members present and voting in each house must be in favor of the bill.
- In the Lok Sabha, the bill must also be supported by a majority of the total members of the house.

Passage and Special Procedures:

The passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill follows a special procedure:

1. **Introduction and First Reading:** The bill is introduced and published in the Gazette of India.
2. **Consideration and Motion to Refer:** The bill is considered in the house where it was introduced, and a motion to refer it to a select committee may be moved.
3. **Select Committee (Optional):** If referred to a select committee, the committee examines the bill and submits a report to the house.
4. **Second Reading:** The bill is debated clause by clause, and amendments can be proposed.
5. **Committee Stage:** The bill is referred to a committee of the whole house for further discussion and amendments.
6. **Third Reading:** The bill is considered in its entirety, and further amendments can be proposed.
7. **Special Majority Vote:** The bill is put to vote, and it must be passed by a special majority in both houses.
8. **President's Assent:** Once passed by both houses, the bill is sent to the President for assent. The President has the power to either give assent or withhold assent to a Constitution Amendment Bill.

Examples of Constitution Amendment Bills:



Learn the Types of Bills in Parliament for WBP Constable Exam

- The Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Bill, 1976, which established the supremacy of Parliament and introduced the concept of a basic structure of the Constitution.
- The Constitution (Eighty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2012, which introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a unified indirect tax system.
- The Constitution (One Hundred and Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2015, which introduced the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Constitution Amendment Bills play a crucial role in adapting the Constitution to the changing needs of society and addressing emerging challenges. They allow for the modification of existing provisions and the introduction of new ones to ensure that the Constitution remains relevant and effective in upholding the fundamental principles of democracy, justice, and equality.

Constitution Amendment Bills are a powerful tool for constitutional reform, enabling the Parliament to make necessary changes to the Constitution to address contemporary issues and adapt to the evolving needs of the nation. However, the special majority requirement and the President's power to assent or withhold assent ensure that amendments are carefully considered and that the fundamental principles of the Constitution are protected.

Difference Between Ordinary Bill and Money Bill

Learn the Types of Bills in Parliament for WBP Constable Exam

Ordinary Bill	Money Bill
It can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, by a minister or a private member.	It can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, not the Rajya Sabha; and it can only be introduced by ministers.
It is introduced without the President's permission.	It can only be introduced on the President's recommendation.
The Rajya Sabha has the power to amend or reject it.	It cannot be revised or rejected by the Rajya Sabha.
The Rajya Sabha has the power to detain it for six months.	The bill should be returned to the Rajya Sabha with or without any recommendations, which the Lok Sabha may approve or reject.
It does not need the certification of the Speaker when referred to the Rajya Sabha (Upper House).	It can only be detained by the Rajya Sabha for a maximum of 14 days and it must be certified by the Speaker before being sent to the Rajya Sabha.
The President's assent is given only after being passed by both the Houses of the parliament.	Even if only the Lok Sabha accepts it, it is sent to the President for this assent.
If there is a deadlock due to disagreement	



Learn the Types of Bills in Parliament for WBP Constable Exam



[Source: The Print]

In conclusion, grasping the intricacies of various bill types in the Indian Parliament is fundamental for candidates aiming to excel in the WBP Constable Exam. A solid understanding of Money Bills, Ordinary Bills, and Private Members' Bills, among others, is essential for comprehending the legislative process. These bills are not just legal documents; they are the drivers of change and the foundation of our democracy. Armed with this knowledge, candidates can navigate the exam with confidence, knowing they possess a crucial piece of the legislative puzzle.

So, as you prepare for the WBP Constable Exam, remember that these insights into the world of bills will not only serve you in the examination hall but also equip you with a deeper understanding of the functioning of our nation's governance.

So, this is all for today. We will discuss the work, functions and powers of the **President of India**. It's a very interesting topic and will clear most of your queries regarding the work and functions of the Parliament. So, stay tuned with our **'Indian Parliament'** Series!