

## Some Basic Terminology used in the Parliament of India

In the realm of India's parliamentary proceedings, familiarity with essential terminology is pivotal for any **WBP Constable Exam** aspirant. This introductory guide delves into the fundamental vocabulary used within the **Parliament of India**. From deciphering legislative processes to comprehending the intricacies of debates and discussions, mastering these basic terms is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the nation's governance.

Whether you're a novice or looking to enhance your existing knowledge, this guide aims to demystify parliamentary language and empower candidates with the linguistic tools necessary to navigate the intricate landscape of Indian parliamentary affairs.

This is the fifth part of our '**Indian Parliament**' series. If you haven't read the third blog i.e. [The President of India](#), then click on the embedded link and read it first. Now let's move on to the **Basic Terminology used in the Parliament of India**.

## Annual Financial Statement (Budget)

The term 'Budget' has nowhere been mentioned in the Constitution. It is the admired name for the 'Annual Financial Statement' that has been dealt with in **Article 112** of the Constitution. The budget is a statement of the approximate receipts and expenditure of the Government of India in a financial year. Expenditure on revenue accounts should be segregated from other expenditure. Also expenditure charged on the consolidated fund should be distinguished from the expense made from the fund.

### Following are the Expenses charged upon the Consolidated Fund:

1. Salaries, pensions or expenses of the President, CAG, UPSC, Supreme Court judge.
2. Pensions of High Court judges, Presiding or deputy presiding officers of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.
3. Loans of the Government of India, Amounts to satisfy any judgment, expense declared by parliament to be charged on the fund. These expenditures are discussed but not put to vote in the house.



[Source: NDTV]



## Stages of Enactment of Budget:

The Budget goes through the following 6 stages in the Parliament:

- 1. Presentation of budget:** The Finance minister presents the General Budget in the Lok Sabha. It is started by an introduction speech and concluded with the taxation proposals or any alterations in the existing tax regime.
- 2. General Budget:** It takes place in both the houses of the parliament encompassing the discussion of the general principles or the budget in its entirety. Neither a Cut Motion can be moved nor can the Budget be submitted to the vote of the house. It becomes the responsibility of the Finance Minister to give a reply at the closure of the discussion.
- 3. Scrutiny by Departmental committees:** An in-depth scrutiny of demand for grants by department is done by each departmental standing committee of parliament. Three to four weeks are set for this purpose and the house remains in recess during this period. The standing committees prepare a report to the house at the end.
- 4. Voting on Demand of Grants:** The MPs of Lok Sabha study and vote on each demand for grant. The Lok Sabha only would vote on demand for grants and no voting is allowed on the expenditure charged on the consolidated fund of India. Members of Parliament (MPs) could move motion for reduction of a grant called Cut Motions;
- 5. Passing of Appropriation Bill:** Appropriation bill gives power to the government to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for meeting the expenditure during the Financial year. Money cannot be withdrawn by the government from the Consolidated Fund of India except appropriation made by law.
  - No amendments could be made on these in any house
  - After the bill receives approval of the President it becomes an appropriation act.
  - Finance bill is also presented including provisions for taxation. It is like a money bill but amendments could be made seeking to reduce or remove a tax. This allows taxes to be levied. Consolidated Fund of India for meeting the expenditure during the Financial year. Money cannot be withdrawn by the government from the Consolidated Fund of India except appropriation made by law.
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## Question Hour

The first hour of every Parliamentary sitting is called the **question hour**. Members can ask three types of questions and answers by Ministers.

## About Question Hour:

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- **Definition:** The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is designated for the Question Hour. But, in 2014 the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha was shifted from 11 am to 12 noon.
- During this, Members of Parliament (MPs) ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.
- The members can also ask the questions to the private members (MPs who are not ministers including members of the Ruling Party).
- **Regulation:** It is regulated according to parliamentary rules. The presiding officers of both Houses (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.



[Source: ThePrint]

## Zero Hour

The time directly following the Question Hour has come to be known as **Zero Hour**. It starts at around 12 noon (hence the name) and members could, with prior notice to the Speaker, raise issues of importance during this time.

### About Zero Hour:

- While Question Hour is strictly governed, Zero Hour is an Indian innovation in parliamentary system. It is not mentioned in the rules of procedure.
- The concept of Zero Hour started in the first decade of the Indian Parliament when Members of Parliament (MPs) felt the need for raising important constituency and national issues.
- This is why it is popularly called Zero Hour and the issues raised during this time as Zero Hour submissions.
- Its importance can be analysed from the support it receives from citizens, media, Members of Parliament (MPs) and presiding officers despite not being part of the rulebook.

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[Source: Hindustan Times]

**Short Duration Discussion:** It's also known as a two-hour discussion because the maximum time allotted for such a discussion is two hours. Members of Parliament can initiate debates on matters of pressing public concern.

## Types of Questions in the Parliament

**Starred Questions:** These are Questions to which answers are supposedly given orally on the floor of the House during the Question Hour. It requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow. These are eminent in the printed lists by asterisks. Around 15 such questions are recorded each day.

**Unstarred Questions:** Such Questions are answered with written answers by Ministers which are deemed to have been laid on the Table of the House at the end of the Question Hour.

**Short Notice Questions:** Such questions can be asked orally after the Question Hour at a notice shorter than that prescribed for Starred and Unstarred Questions. These should relate to a subject-matter considered by the Chairman to be of urgent public importance.

## Important Provisions of Representation of People Act

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Representation of People Act, 1950	Representation of People Act, 1951
<p>Allocation of Seats in the House of People (Section 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of seats for Each States</li> <li>• Reserved Seats for SC/ST (1st Schedule)</li> </ul>	<p>Disqualification: House of People; Legislative Assembly; Council of States and Legislative Council</p>
<p>(No. of Seats in Legislative Assemblies (Section 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of Seats to Each state</li> <li>• Reserved Seats for SC/ST (2nd Schedule)</li> </ul>	<p>Disqualification: Members of Parliament and State Legislature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples: Section 8(1); Section 8(2); Section 8(3) of the Act</li> </ul>
<p>Allocation of Seats in Legislative Council (Section 10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As provided in the 3rd Schedule of the Act.</li> </ul>	<p>Power of Election Commission to reduce or remove disqualification by reason recorded in writing (Section 11)</p>
<p>Preparation and revision of Electoral rolls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before each general Election and Legislative Assembly Election</li> <li>• Before bye-election to fill casual vacancy</li> <li>• Shall be revised in</li> </ul>	<p>Notification For General Election (Section 14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The President may notify the recommendation of the Election Commission.</li> <li>• Notification for States Legislative Assembly (Section 15)</li> <li>• The Governor may notify</li> </ul>

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[Source: FindLaw]

So, we saw how parliament acts as the legislative organ of government and the citizenship, now in the following chapter we will study how we as citizens are having certain rights which are fundamental in nature in Indian Polity, what duties we must perform as responsible citizens while availing of those rights and also how the constitution directs state's laws and policies to be oriented towards the welfare of us all.

So, this is the end of '**Indian Parliament**' Series. We will come back with some other blogs for WBP Constable exam. Till then, stay tuned!