

## CHAPTER III

### PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

**67. Standing Parliamentary Committees.**—The following is the list of Standing Parliamentary Committees:—

Name of the Committee	Number of Members in the Committee
1	2
<b>Financial Committees</b>	
(1) Committee on Public Accounts .....	22*
(2) Committee on Estimates .....	30
(3) Committee on Public Undertakings .....	22*
<b>Other Parliamentary Committees</b>	
(4) Business Advisory Committee .....	15
(5) Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.....	15
(6) Committee on Petitions .....	15
(7) Committee of Privileges .....	15
(8) Committee on Ethics .....	15
(9) Committee on Subordinate Legislation .....	15
(10) Committee on Government Assurances .....	15
(11) Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House .....	15
(12) Rules Committee .....	15
(13) General Purposes Committee .....	No fixed# number
(14) House Committee .....	12
(15) Library Committee .....	9†

\* Includes 7 Members of Rajya Sabha.

# Consists of the Speaker, Dy. Speaker, Panel of Chairpersons, Chairpersons of Standing Committees, Leaders of Parties and such other members as may be nominated by the Speaker.

† Includes 3 Members of Rajya Sabha.

1	2
(16) Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament .....	15**
(17) Joint Committee on Offices of Profit .....	15**
(18) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes .....	30††
(19) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table .....	15
(20) Committee on Empowerment of Women .....	30††
(21) <b>Departmentally Related Standing Committees</b>	
(i) Committee on Commerce .....	31@
(ii) Committee on Home Affairs .....	31@
(iii) Committee on Human Resource Development ..	31@
(iv) Committee on Industry .....	31@
(v) Committee on Science and Technology, Environment & Forests .....	31@
(vi) Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture .....	31@
(vii) Committee on Health & Family Welfare .....	31@
(viii) Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice .....	31@
(ix) Committee on Agriculture .....	31@
(x) Committee on Information Technology .....	31@
(xi) Committee on Defence .....	31@
(xii) Committee on Energy .....	31@
(xiii) Committee on External Affairs .....	31@
(xiv) Committee on Finance .....	31@
(xv) Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution .....	31@
(xvi) Committee on Labour .....	31@
(xvii) Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas .....	31@
(xviii) Committee on Railways .....	31@
(xix) Committee on Urban Development .....	31@
(xx) Committee on Water Resources .....	31@
(xxi) Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers .....	31@
(xxii) Committee on Rural Development .....	31@
(xxiii) Committee on Coal & Steel .....	31@
(xxiv) Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment ..	31@

\*\* Includes 5 Members of Rajya Sabha.

†† Includes 10 Members of Rajya Sabha.

@ Includes 10 Members of Rajya Sabha [Serial Nos. (i) to (viii) serviced by Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the rest by Lok Sabha Secretariat].

The Committees mentioned at (1), (2) and (3) above are Financial Committees. The constitution, composition and functions etc. of the Standing Committees are given below Committee-wise.

(1) *Public Accounts Committee.*— (i) Public Accounts Committee is constituted under the provisions of Rules 308 and 309. Its function is to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the House to meet the expenditure of the Government of India, the annual Finance Accounts of the Government of India and such other accounts laid before the House as the Committee may think fit except those relating to such Public Undertakings as are allotted to the Committee on Public Undertakings. Apart from the Reports of Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Appropriation Accounts of the Union Government, the Committee examines the various Audit Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General on revenue receipts, expenditure by various Ministries/Departments of Government and accounts of autonomous bodies. The Committee looks upon savings arising from incorrect estimating or other defects in procedure no more leniently than it does upon excesses.

(ii) In scrutinising the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of India and the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, it is the duty of the Committee to satisfy itself—

- (a) that the moneys shown in the accounts as having been disbursed were legally available for, and applicable to the service or purpose to which they have been applied or charged;
- (b) that the expenditure conforms to the authority which governs it; and
- (c) that every re-appropriation has been made in accordance with the provisions made in this behalf under rules framed by competent authority.

(iii) The Committee consists of 22 members comprising 15 Members elected by Lok Sabha from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote for a term not exceeding one year and not more than seven members of Rajya Sabha to be nominated by the House for being associated with the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of Lok Sabha elected to the Committee. A Minister is not eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee, and if a member after her/his election to the Committee is appointed to hold such an office she/he ceases to be member of the Committee from the date of such appointment. Whenever the Chairperson or any member of the Committee is invited to accept

membership of any Committee constituted by Government, the matter has to be placed before the Speaker before the appointment is accepted. In case, a member who is already a member of a Committee constituted by Government is elected to the Public Accounts Committee the matter has to be placed promptly before the Speaker for deciding whether the member should be permitted to continue her/his membership of the former Committee.

(iv) The PAC may appoint one or more Sub-Committees, each having the powers of the undivided Committee, to examine any matter that may be referred to them, and the reports of the said Sub-Committee shall be deemed to be the reports of the whole Committee, if they are approved at a sitting of the full Committee.

(v) An important function of the Committee is to ascertain that money granted by Parliament has been spent by Government “within the scope of the demand”. The functions of the Committee extend ‘beyond the formality of expenditure to its wisdom, faithfulness and economy’. The Committee thus examines cases involving losses, nugatory expenditure and financial irregularities. When any case of proved negligence resulting in loss or extravagance is brought to the notice of the Committee. It calls upon the Ministry/Department concerned to explain the reasons for such irregularity and the action taken to prevent recurrence of instances of such nature. In such a case it might also record its opinion in the form of disapproval or pass structures against the extravagance or lack of proper control by the Ministry or Department concerned.

If any money has been spent on a service in excess of the amount granted by the House for the purpose, the Committee examines with reference to the facts of each case, the circumstances leading to such an excess and makes such recommendations as it may deem fit. Such excesses are thereafter required to be brought before the House by Government for regularisation in the manner envisaged in Article 115 of the Constitution. To facilitate speedy regularisation of such excess expenditure by Parliament, the Committee presents a consolidated report relating to all Ministries/Departments in advance of the other reports.

(vi) In addition to examining Audit reports, the Committee of its own accord may inquire into various irregularities which have become public or which have been brought to the notice of the Government, even though there was no Audit Report on the subject or the Audit Report thereon may be presented later. The Committee examines the representatives of the various Ministries concerned with the matters referred to the Audit Reports and Appropriation Accounts. The Committee is assisted by the Comptroller and Auditor General in its deliberations. The Committee may call for further information on any point arising from the examination of the Accounts and the Reports of the Comptroller

and Auditor General thereon. The Committee may visit a Government establishment for an on-the-spot study of its working. The Committee presents its reports to the House along with Minutes of its sittings. The Committee may append notes, memoranda etc. received from the Ministries except those of a confidential or secret nature to their Reports. Evidence given before the Committee is not presented to the House, except as quoted in the Report.

(vii) Government is required to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Committee within six months and keep it informed of the action taken or proposed to be taken in each case. The implementation of its recommendations by Government is constantly watched by the Committee. The Action Taken notes received from the Ministry/Department are examined by the Action Taken Sub-Committee/Main Committee and Action Taken Reports are also presented to the House. All replies received from the Government in respect of the recommendations contained in the Action Taken Reports are also laid on the Table of both the Houses in the form of statements.

(2) *Estimates Committee.*— (i) The Estimates Committee is constituted under provisions of Rule 310 for examination of the estimates as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker. Its functions are (a) to report what economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency or administrative reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates, may be effected; (b) to suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration; (c) to examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates; and (d) to suggest the form in which the estimates shall be presented to Parliament.

(ii) The Committee consists of 30 members elected annually by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee. A Minister is not eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee. If a member after election to the Committee is appointed as a Minister, such member ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment. Whenever a member, who is a member of Committee constituted by Government is elected to the Committee on Estimates, the matter is placed before the Speaker for deciding whether the member shall be permitted to continue her/his membership of the former Committee. Whenever the Chairperson or any member of the Committee on Estimates is invited to accept membership of any Committee constituted by Government, the matter is placed before the Speaker before the appointment is accepted.

(iii) The Committee may, from time to time, appoint one or more Study Groups/sub-Committees from amongst the members for carrying out on-the-spot study, detailed study of the subjects selected; scrutiny of action taken replies furnished by the Government on the recommendations contained in the previous reports of the Committee and for considering procedural matters.

(iv) The Committee calls for detailed information from the Ministries/ Deptts. of the Government in respect of subjects taken up for examination. The Committee may ask non-official organisations such as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, experts or interested parties on the subject to furnish memoranda on the subject taken up for examination. The Committee takes evidence of a few selected non-official witnesses and later examines the representatives of the Ministries concerned. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee are contained in their reports. The reports adopted by the Committee are presented to Lok Sabha by the Chairperson of the Committee. The Minutes of the sittings of the Estimates Committee are incorporated in the Report as annexure and presented to the House alongwith the Report.

(v) Whenever estimates relating to the Ministry of Defence are taken up for examination a sub-Committee is constituted from amongst the members of the Committee. The sub-Committee calls for information and takes evidence of officials and non-officials. The Report of the sub-Committee is placed before the whole Committee and after their approval it is then deemed to be the Report of the whole Committee.

(vi) After a report has been presented to Lok Sabha the Ministry or Department concerned is required to take action on various recommendations and conclusions contained in the report and furnish action taken replies within six months. The Action Taken Notes received from the Ministry/Department are examined by the Action Taken Study Group/sub-Committee/Committee. The Action Taken Reports are also presented to the House. Statements of action taken or proposed to be taken received from the Government in respect of comments contained in the Action Taken Reports are also laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

(3) *Committee on Public Undertakings.*—(i) The Committee on Public Undertakings is constituted under Rule 312B. The Committee consists of not more than 22 members comprising 15 members elected by Lok Sabha from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and not more than 7 members from Rajya Sabha to be nominated by that House for being associated with the Committee. The term of office of members of the Committee is not to exceed one year. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee.

A Minister is not eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee and if a member after election to the Committee is appointed a Minister, such member ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment. As in the case of the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee whenever the Chairperson or any Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings is invited to accept membership of any Committee constituted by Government, the matter has to be placed before the Speaker before the appointment is accepted. In case a Member who is already a Member of a Committee constituted by Government is elected to the Committee on Public Undertakings, the matter has to be placed promptly before the Speaker for deciding whether the Member should be permitted to continue the membership of the former Committee.

If a member of the Committee has a personal, pecuniary or direct interest in any matter which is to be considered by the Committee such member has to state her/his interest thereon to the Speaker through the Chairperson of the Committee. The Speaker, after considering the matter, will give decision which would be final.

(ii) The functions of the Committee are to examine the reports and accounts of the Public Undertakings specified in the Fourth Schedule to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, if any, and to see whether in the context of their autonomy and efficiency, the affairs of the Public Undertakings are being managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practices. The functions which, prior to the setting up of this Committee were performed by the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee in relation to these public undertakings have also been vested in this Committee. But the Committee does not examine (a) matters of major Government policy as distinct from business or commercial functions of Public Undertakings; (b) matters of day-to-day administration; and (c) matters for the consideration of which machinery is established by any special statute under which a particular undertaking is established.

(iii) All Government Companies whose Annual Reports are placed before the Houses of Parliament under section 619A (1) of the Companies Act, 1956 and statutory Corporations whose names have been specified in the Fourth Schedule to the Rules of Procedure come within the purview of the Committee.

(iv) The work of the Committee is regulated in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business relating to the Parliamentary Committees. For its internal working, the Committee has separately formulated elaborate rules. Depending upon the need a number of Study Groups are constituted by the Chairperson from

amongst the members of the Committee for carrying out detailed study of various subjects selected by the Committee, indicating the broad points on which draft Reports may be prepared and for considering the draft Reports before circulation to the whole Committee, etc. Similarly, an Action Taken sub-Committee is also constituted by the Chairperson to consider the action taken by Government on the various recommendations contained in the Reports of the Committee.

(v) The Committee calls for preliminary material with regard to the working of the Public Undertakings from the Ministries of the Government/ Public Undertakings and also visits the projects and establishments of the Public Undertakings for an on-the-spot study of their working. The Committee also examines official and non-official witnesses and also takes the assistance of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in pursuing the matters raised in the Audit Reports relating to the Undertakings or Statutory Corporations. Thereafter, the Committee arrives at its Observations/Recommendations, which along with the facts on which they are based are embodied in the Reports of the Committee. The Reports of the Committee after factual verification by the Ministry/ Undertaking concerned, and Comptroller and Auditor General of India, if based on Audit Report are presented to Parliament. The minutes of the Sittings of the Committee are annexed to the Reports to which these relate. The Reports are sent to the Government for taking necessary action on the Recommendations contained therein. The replies of the Government regarding action taken on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Reports which are required to be furnished generally within six months after presentation of the Report are scrutinised by the Action Taken sub-Committee/Committee and separate Reports on the action taken by the Government, after adoption by the Committee, are presented to Parliament. After presentation of these Reports Government are required to furnish replies showing action taken or proposed to be taken by them on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in Chapter-I and the final replies to the Recommendations/Observations contained in Chapter-V of the Report. The replies so received are consolidated in the form of a Statement and after Chairperson's approval, laid on the Table of both the Houses.

(vi) From November 2000, the Committee had started laying in Parliament the Study Tour Reports pertaining to the functioning of individual undertakings with full-fledged Observations/ Recommendations. However, the said practice was discontinued by the Committee since December 2004. Instead, Tour Notes are prepared by the Secretariat and approved by the Chairperson and also utilized in preparation of main Reports of the Committee. A copy of the Tour Notes is made available in the Chamber of Committee Chairperson for perusal of the Committee members.

(4) *Business Advisory Committee.*— (i) The Business Advisory Committee is constituted at the commencement of new Lok Sabha after the general elections and thereafter from time to time under the provisions of Rule 287. No specific term of its office is laid down in the rules but like other parliamentary committees, it holds office until a new committee is nominated by the Speaker.

In practice, however, the Committee is usually reconstituted every year and assumes office in the first week of June. It consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The members of the Committee are nominated by the Speaker. The Deputy Speaker, if he is not nominated on the Committee may also be invited to attend the sittings of the Committee, as a special invitee. In view of the limited membership of the Committee and the presence of a large number of Opposition parties in the House, it is not possible for the Speaker to nominate members from each and every party. In order to make it as broad-based as possible so that its recommendations could be acceptable to all sections of the House, members from some of the parties in the Opposition which do not find representation on the Committee are chosen on *ad-hoc* basis by the Speaker and invited to attend its sittings as special invitees. The Members so invited take part in the deliberations of the Committee. However, they are not counted for the purpose of quorum.

(ii) The function of the Committee is to recommend the time that should be allocated for the discussion of the stage or stages of Government Bills and other business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct for being referred to the Committee. In suitable cases the Committee has the power to indicate in the proposed time table the different hours at which various stages of a Bill or other Government business should be completed. The Committee only allots time in respect of the business to be transacted by the House during the Government time. The priority in respect of these items is determined by Government. The Committee also selects for discussion in the House, Motions under Rule 184 and Short Duration discussions under Rule 193 admitted by the Speaker and recommends time therefor. All proposals for late sittings of the House, dispensing with the Question Hour or lunch hour, extension of sittings of the House beyond the normal hours of adjournment and fixing of additional sittings/ cancellation of sittings are placed before the Committee for its recommendation.

(iii) The Committee generally meets at the beginning of each session and as often thereafter as may be necessary.

(iv) The recommendations made by the Committee reflect the general consensus arrived at after discussion in the Committee and are

indicative of the collective view of the parties and groups represented in the House.

(v) The recommendations of the Committee are presented to the House in the form of a report. Printed copies of the report are circulated to members. A motion that the House do agree with the report of the Committee is moved in the House on the following day. After the report is agreed to by the House, the allocation of time as approved by the House is notified in Bulletin-Part II and it takes effect as an order of the House. No variation is permissible in the allocation of time order except on a motion adopted by the House. The Speaker may however increase the time on any item by one hour in his discretion without a formal motion being moved.

[Rules 287 to 292]

(5) *Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.* —The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions is constituted after each general election to Lok Sabha and thereafter from time to time under rule 293. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. The functions of the Committee are: (a) to allot time to Private Members' Bills and Resolutions; (b) to examine Private Members' Bills seeking to amend the Constitution before their introduction in Lok Sabha; (c) to categorise Private Members' Bills according to their nature, urgency and importance into two categories, namely, category-A and category-B, after they have been introduced in Lok Sabha; (d) to examine every Private Member's Bill which is opposed in the House on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House; and (e) to perform such other functions in respect of Private Members' Bills and Resolutions as may be assigned to it by the Speaker under Rule 294. The report of the Committee is presented to the House by the Chairperson or, in her/his absence, by any other member of the Committee. Thereafter, a motion that the House agrees with the report of the Committee is moved on the next day allotted for private members' business. After the report is agreed to by the House, the recommendations of the Committee take effect as an order of the House. No variation is permissible in the allocation of time order except on a motion adopted by the House. Where any matter relating to Private Members' Bills or resolutions is referred to the Committee by the Speaker under Rule 294, the report of the Committee is presented to the Speaker who may pass final orders thereon.

[Rules 293 to 296]

(6) *Committee on Petitions.*— The Committee on Petitions is constituted under Rule 306. It consists of 15 members nominated by

the Speaker. A Minister is not nominated a member of the Committee and where if a member after nomination to the Committee is appointed a Minister, ceases to be a member of the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee. The Committee continues in office till a new Committee is appointed. Normally the Committee is reconstituted every year. The functions of the Committee are:

(a) to examine every petition referred to it and if the petition complies with the rules to direct that it be circulated *in extenso* or in summary form, as the case may be; (b) to report to the House on specific complaints made in the petition referred to it after taking such evidence as it deems fit and to suggest remedial measures, either in a concrete form applicable to the case under review or to prevent such cases in future; and (c) to consider representations, letters and telegrams from various individuals, associations etc. which are not covered by the rules relating to petitions and to give directions for their disposal. The Committee presents its Reports to the House from time to time.

(7) *Committee of Privileges.*— The Committee of Privileges is constituted under Rule 313. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee. The Committee continues in office till a new Committee is appointed. The functions of the Committee are: (a) to examine every question of privilege referred to it and to determine with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of privilege is involved and, if so, the nature of the breach, the circumstances leading to it and to make such recommendations as it may deem fit; and (b) to state the procedure to be followed by the House in giving effect to the recommendations made by it. When a question of privilege is referred to the Committee by the House, the report of the Committee is presented to the House by the Chairperson or, in her/his absence, by any member of the Committee. Where a question of privilege is referred to the Committee by the Speaker under Rule 227, the report of the Committee is presented to the Speaker who may pass final orders thereon or direct that it be laid on the Table of the House.

With the coming into force *w.e.f.* 18.3.1986 of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1985, made by the Speaker under paragraph 8 of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution an additional function has been assigned to the Committee. The Speaker may refer to the Committee any petition regarding disqualification of a member on ground of defection for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him. The procedure to be followed by the Committee in these cases is so far as may be the same as is applicable to questions of breach of privilege.

[Rules 2(b), 7(4) and 7(7) of the said Rules]

(8) *Committee on Ethics*.— The Committee on Ethics was constituted originally as an *ad-hoc* Committee on 16 May, 2000 during 13th Lok Sabha subsequently, during the 16th Lok Sabha, it has been made a Standing Committee *w.e.f.* 12 August, 2015 under Rule 316A. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee. The Committee continues in office till a new Committee is appointed. The functions of the Committee as provided in Rule 316B are: (a) to examine every complaint relating to unethical conduct of a Member of Lok Sabha referred to it by the Speaker and make such recommendations as it may deem fit. (b) to formulate a Code of Conduct for Members and suggest amendments or additions to the Code of Conduct from time to time. On a matter being referred to the Committee, a preliminary inquiry shall be conducted by the Committee. If the Committee, after a preliminary inquiry, is of the opinion that there is no *prima facie* case, it may recommend that the matter may be dropped and the Chairperson shall intimate the Speaker accordingly. If the Committee, after preliminary inquiry, is of the opinion that there is a *prima facie* case, the Committee shall take up the matter for further examination. The Committee may lay down procedure, from time to time, for examination of matters referred to it. The Report of the Committee shall be presented to the Speaker who may direct that the report be laid on the Table of the House. Further, the report of the Committee may also state the procedure to be followed by the House in giving effect to the recommendations made by the Committee. Rule 316E *inter-alia* provides for procedure for consideration of the Report of the Committee on Ethics by the House.

#### **The Members of Lok Sabha (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Rules, 2004**

The Members of Lok Sabha (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Rules, 2004 stipulates that every elected candidate for the House of the People shall, within ninety days from the date on which he makes and subscribes an oath or affirmation for taking his seat, furnish information pertaining to his/her Assets and Liabilities as prescribed in Form I.

Booklet on 'The Members of Lok Sabha (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Rules, 2004' (both Hindi and English versions) as well as Form-I is readily available for use and reference of Members in the Privileges and Ethics Branch.

Form-I as prescribed under the aforesaid Rules can also be accessed online by the Members through the following link:

[www.loksabha.nic.in](http://www.loksabha.nic.in)→Members→Downloads→Declaration of Assets and Liabilities

(9) *Committee on Subordinate Legislation.*— (i) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation is constituted under Rule 318. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker for a term not exceeding one year. A Minister is not nominated a member of the Committee, and if a member, after nomination to the Committee, is appointed to such an office, such member ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment under Rule 318(i). The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee.

(ii) The functions of the Committee are to scrutinize and report to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised within such delegation.

(iii) The Committee considers each regulation, rule, sub-rule, bye-law etc. framed in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution or the legislative functions delegated by Parliament to a subordinate authority, and which is required to be laid before the House, with particular reference to—(a) whether it is in accord with the general objects of the Constitution or the Act pursuant to which it is made; (b) whether it contains matter which in the opinion of the Committee should more appropriately be dealt with in an Act of Parliament; (c) whether it contains imposition of any tax; (d) whether it directly or indirectly bars the jurisdiction of the courts; (e) whether it gives retrospective effect to any of the provisions in respect of which the Constitution or the Act does not expressly give any such power; (f) whether it involves expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India or the Public revenues; (g) whether it appears to make some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the Constitution or the Act pursuant to which it is made; (h) whether there appears to have been unjustifiable Delay in its publication or in laying it before Parliament; and (i) whether for any reason its form or purport calls for any elucidation.

(iv) The Committee also examines the Bills which seek to delegate powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws etc. or amend earlier Acts delegating such powers, with a view to see whether suitable provisions for the laying of the regulations, rules, etc. have been made therein. The Committee may also comment on the nature of the provisions contained in the relevant sections of the statutes delegating the powers, if in its view the delegation is in conflict with the general principles governing delegation by the Legislature. The Committee presents its reports to the House from time to time.

On the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee, the Government is required to take action within six months and keep the Committee informed of the action taken or proposed to be taken in

each case. The Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee are examined and included in the Action taken Report which is also presented to the House.

(v) During consideration of any rule/regulation or bye-law etc. commonly known as 'Order' if the Committee feel that an on-the-spot study visit should be undertaken of a particular organization to gain first hand information about the application of 'Order', the Committee may, with the specific approval of the Speaker, undertake tour of the organization connected with the 'Order'.

(10) *Committee on Government Assurances.*— (i) The Committee on Government Assurances is constituted under Rule 323. It consists of not more than 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee.

(ii) The term of office of members does not exceed one year.

(iii) The functions of the Committee are to scrutinize the assurances, promises, undertakings, etc., given by Ministers on the floor of the House from time to time during the Question Hour as also during the discussion on Bills, resolutions, motions etc., and to report to the House, the extent to which such assurances, promises or undertakings, etc., have been implemented and where implemented whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose.

(iv) The Committee on Government Assurances has prescribed an outer limit of three months for the implementation of an assurance to be calculated from the date of its being given in the House. However, if Government foresees any genuine difficulty in implementing the assurance within the stipulated period, the Ministry concerned may submit to the Committee a request for extension of time as considered minimum for fulfilment of the assurance. The Committee presents its report to the House from time to time.

(v) The pending assurance do not lapse on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

(11) *Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.*—(i) The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House is constituted under Rule 325. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee.

(ii) The Committee holds office for a term not exceeding one year.

(iii) The functions of the Committee have been given in para 56 above.

(12) *Rules Committee*.— (i) the Rules Committee is constituted under Rule 330. It consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The members of the Committee are nominated by the Speaker.

(ii) The functions of the Committee are: (a) to consider matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House; and (b) to recommend any amendments or additions to the rules that may be deemed necessary. It continues in office till reconstituted by the Speaker.

(13) *General Purposes Committee*.—*The General Purposes Committee* consists of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Panel of Chairpersons, Chairpersons of all Standing Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha, Leaders of recognised parties and groups in Lok Sabha and such other Members as may be nominated by the Speaker. The Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.

(14) *House Committee*.— (i) The House Committee consists of not more than twelve members appointed by the Speaker. The Committee holds office for a term not exceeding one year. A member may be renominated by the Speaker to the new House Committee.

The functions of the Committee are: (a) to deal with all questions relating to residential accommodation for members of Lok Sabha; and (b) to exercise supervision over facilities for accommodation, food, medical aid and other amenities accorded to members in members' residences and hostels in Delhi. Proposals, suggestions, etc. which are of common interest to Members of both the Houses, are considered and decided by the Chairpersons, House Committees of both the Houses, at joint sittings, if so authorised by their respective Committees. The Secretarial assistance for such sittings is provided by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, but the minutes are approved by both the Chairpersons.

(ii) There is also an Accommodation sub-Committee consisting of not more than four members including the Chairperson of the House Committee who is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the sub-Committee. The members of the sub-Committee are nominated by the Chairperson of the House Committee from amongst the members of the House Committee. The main function of the sub-Committee is to advise on the allotment of residential accommodation to members of Lok Sabha. An appeal against the decision of the House Committee or the Accommodation sub-Committee lies with the Speaker whose decision is final.

There are also sub-Committees on (a) *Furnishing*; and (b) *Amenities*—each consisting of not more than four members including convener of the sub-Committee but excluding the Chairperson of the House Committee who is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the sub-Committees. All the Members of these sub-Committees are nominated by the Chairperson.

The Committee may appoint one or more sub-Committees, each having the powers of the undivided Committee, to examine any special points relating to residential accommodation, food, medical aid and other amenities in members' residences and the reports of such sub-Committees shall be deemed to be the report of the Committee, if they are approved at a sitting of the Committee.

(15) *Library Committee*.—(i) The Library Committee is a Joint Committee of the two Houses constituted by the Speaker to advise on matters concerning the Parliament Library. The Committee consists of six members from the Lok Sabha including the Deputy Speaker, who is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee, and three members of the Rajya Sabha. The Committee holds office for a term not exceeding one year.

(ii) The functions of the Committee are:—

- (a) to consider and advise on such matters concerning the Parliament Library as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time;
- (b) to consider suggestions for the improvement of the Parliament Library; and
- (c) to assist members of Parliament in fully utilising the services provided by the Parliament Library.

(iii) Recommendations and suggestions by members regarding addition of books to the Parliament Library and other day-to-day miscellaneous matters concerning the Parliament Library are referred to the Library Committee.

(16) *Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament*.— (i) Under sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament consisting of five members from the Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman and ten members from the Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker is constituted. The members of the Joint Committee elect its Chairperson. The Joint Committee is a Standing Committee of Parliament and the term of the

Committee is one year which commences from the date of election of its Chairperson. The Committee determines its own rules of procedure.

(ii) The Joint Committee is empowered to make, after consultation with Government, rules on matters specified in sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 which pertains to regulation of matters of details of the payment of travelling and daily allowances and pension under that Act, constituency allowance; provision of medical, housing, telephone, water, electricity facilities and the amount which may be paid by way of repayable advance for the purchase of conveyance; the rate of interest thereon and the mode of recovery of such amount and interest thereon.

(iii) Under the powers vested in it, the Joint Committee has made the following rules:—

- (a) The Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956.
- (b) The Members of Parliament (Travelling and Daily Allowances) Rules, 1957.
- (c) The Medical Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1959.
- (d) The Members of Parliament (Allowances for Journeys Abroad) Rules, 1960.
- (e) The Members of Parliament (Constituency Allowance) Rules, 1986.
- (f) The Members of Parliament (Advance for the Purchase of Conveyance) Rules, 1986.
- (g) The Members of Parliament (Office Expense Allowance) Rules, 1988.

(iv) Reports are not presented by the Joint Committee to the House(s). The rules made by the Joint Committee do not take effect until they are approved and confirmed by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and are published in the Gazette. Such publication of the rules is, under the Act, a conclusive proof that they have been duly made.

(17) *Joint Committee on Offices of Profit*\*.— (i) The Joint Committee on Offices of Profit is constituted in pursuance of a Government motion adopted by Lok Sabha and concurred in by Rajya Sabha for the duration of Lok Sabha. It consists of 15 Members, ten from Lok Sabha and five

\* No such Committee was constituted in Sixth Lok Sabha.

from Rajya Sabha, who are elected from amongst the Members of the respective Houses according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.

(ii) The main functions of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit are: (a) to examine the composition and character of all existing 'committees' and all 'committees' that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a Member of either House of Parliament under Article 102 of the Constitution; (b) to recommend in relation to the 'committees' examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify; and (c) to scrutinise from time to time the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise. However, the exact functions of the Committee are enumerated in the motion moved and passed in the House.

(iii) The Reports of the Committee are presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

(18) *Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.*— (i) The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is constituted under Rule 331-B. It consists of 30 members, twenty from Lok Sabha elected from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and ten from Rajya Sabha to be elected by that House for being associated with the Committee. A Minister cannot be a member of the Committee and if a member, after election to the Committee, is appointed to such an office, she/he ceases to be a member of the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee. The term of office of members of the Committee is not to exceed one year.

(ii) The functions of the Committee are—

- (a) to consider the reports submitted by the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes under Articles 338(5)(d) and 338A(5)(d), respectively of the Constitution and to report as to the measures that should be taken by the Union Government in respect of matters within the purview of the Union Government including the Administrations of the Union territories;
- (b) to report on the action taken by the Union Government and the Administrations of the Union territories on the measures proposed by the Committee;

- (c) to examine the measures taken by the Union Government to secure due representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services and posts under its control (including appointments in the Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Banks, Statutory and Semi-Government Bodies and in the Union territories) having regard to the provisions of Article 335;
- (d) to report on the working of the welfare programmes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union territories; and
- (e) to examine such other matters as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker.

(iii) From time to time, the Committee selects such subjects pertaining to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as may seem fit to the Committee. The Committee also examines matters of special interest to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which may arise or come to light in the course of its working.

(19) *Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.*— (i) The Committee on Papers Laid on the Table is constituted under Rule 305-A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. It consists of 15 Members nominated by the Speaker for a term not exceeding one year. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee.

(ii) The functions of the Committee are to examine all papers laid on the Table by Ministers and to report to the House as to whether (a) there has been compliance of the provisions of the Constitution, Act, Rule, etc. under which the paper has been laid; (b) there has been any unreasonable delay in laying the paper; (c) in case of delay, a statement explaining the reasons for delay has been laid on the Table and whether those reasons are satisfactory; (d) both the English and Hindi versions of the paper have been laid and in case the Hindi version has not been laid whether a statement explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version has been given and whether such reasons are satisfactory. The Committee also performs such other functions in respect of the papers laid on the Table as may be assigned to it by the Speaker from time to time. The Reports of the Committee are presented to the House from time to time.

[Rule 305-B]

(iii) A Member wishing to raise any of the matters which pertain to the functions of the Committee should refer it to the Committee and not raise it in the House.

[Rule 305-C]

(20) *Committee on Empowerment of Women.*— (i) The Committee on Empowerment of Women is constituted under the provisions of Rule 331-O. It consists of 30 Members, 20 Members nominated by the Speaker from amongst the Members of Lok Sabha and 10 Members nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, from amongst the Members of Rajya Sabha. A Minister cannot be a Member of the Committee and if a Member, after nomination to the Committee, is appointed as Minister, she/he ceases to be a Member of the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee. The term of the Committee is one year.

(ii) The functions of the Committee are:—

- (a) to consider the Reports submitted by the National Commission for Women and report on the measures that should be taken by the Union Government for improving the status/conditions of women in respect of matters within the purview of the Union Government including the Administrations of the Union territories;
- (b) to examine the measures taken by the Union Government to secure for women equality, status and dignity in all matters;
- (c) to examine the measures taken by the Union Government for comprehensive education and adequate representation of women in Legislative bodies/service and other fields;
- (d) to report on the working of the welfare programmes for the women;
- (e) to report on the action taken by the Union Government and Administrations of the Union territories on the measure proposed by the Committee; and
- (f) to examine such other matters as may deem fit to the Committee that are specifically referred to by the House or the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

### **(21) Departmentally Related Standing Committees**

The Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) are constituted under Rule 331-C of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. On 29th March, 1993 the Lok Sabha and

Rajya Sabha adopted Rules establishing 17 DRSCs covering all Government Ministries/Departments. These DRSCs replaced the earlier three subject Committees constituted in August, 1989. The 17 DRSCs were formally constituted with effect from 8th April, 1993.

After experiencing the working of the DRSC system for over a decade, the system was re-structured in July, 2004 wherein the number of DRSCs was increased from 17 to 24. These Committees cover under their jurisdiction the following Ministries/Departments: —

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	Ministries/Departments
1	2	3

**Part I**

1. Committee on Commerce	Commerce and Industry
2. Committee on Home Affairs	(1) Home Affairs (2) Development of North-Eastern Region
3. Committee on Human Resource Development	(1) Human Resource Development (2) Youth Affairs and Sports (3) Women and Child Development
4. Committee on Industry	(1) Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (2) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
5. Committee on Science & Technology and Environment & Forests	(1) Science & Technology (2) Space (3) Earth Sciences (4) Atomic Energy (5) Environment & Forests and Climate Change
6. Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture	(1) Civil Aviation (2) Road Transport and Highways (3) Shipping (4) Culture (5) Tourism

1	2	3
7.	Committee on Health and Family Welfare	(1) Health and Family Welfare (2) Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Sidha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
8.	Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	(1) Law and Justice (2) Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
<b>PART II</b>		
9.	Committee on Agriculture	(1) Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (2) Food Processing Industries
10.	Committee on Information Technology	(1) Communications (2) Electronics & Information Technology (3) Information & Broadcasting
11.	Committee on Defence	Defence
12.	Committee on Energy	(1) New and Renewable Energy (2) Power
13.	Committee on External Affairs	External Affairs
14.	Committee on Finance	(1) Finance (2) Corporate Affairs (3) Planning (4) Statistics and Programme Implementation
15.	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
16.	Committee on Labour	(1) Labour and Employment (2) Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (3) Textiles
17.	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	Petroleum and Natural Gas
18.	Committee on Railways	Railways

1	2	3
19. Committee on Urban Development		(1) Urban Development (2) Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
20. Committee on Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation		Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
21. Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers		Chemicals and Fertilizers
22. Committee on Rural Development		(1) Rural Development (2) Drinking Water and Sanitation (3) Panchayati Raj
23. Committee on Coal and Steel		(1) Coal (2) Mines (3) Steel
24. Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment		(1) Social Justice and Empowerment (2) Tribal Affairs (3) Minority Affairs

The Committees specified under Parts I & II above work under the directions of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, respectively.

#### *Composition*

Till 13th Lok Sabha, each of these Standing Committees consisted of 45 members—30 nominated by the Speaker from amongst the members of Lok Sabha and 15 members nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha from amongst the members of Rajya Sabha. However, with re-structuring of DRSCs in July, 2004 each DRSC consists of 31 members—21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. Seats on each Committee are allocated to different parties and groups in both the Houses of Parliament as far as practicable in proportion of their respective strength in the House. Suitable number of seats on these Committees are also allocated to independents and unattached members.

#### *Appointment of Chairperson*

The Chairperson of each of the Standing Committees specified in Part I is appointed by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and in respect of

Committees specified in Part II by the Speaker, Lok Sabha from amongst the members of the Committee.

*Minister not to be Member of the Committee*

A Minister is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any of the Committee and if a member, after nomination to any of the Standing Committee, is appointed a Minister, such members ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

*Term of Office*

The term of office of each Committee is one year, from the date of its constitution.

*Functions*

The functions of each of the Committees are:—

- (a) to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a report on the same to the Houses. The report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions;
- (b) to examine such Bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries/Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha as the case may be, and make report thereon;
- (c) to consider annual reports of Ministries/Departments and make reports thereon; and
- (d) to consider National basic long term policy documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha as the case may be, and make report thereon.

The Committees do not consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the concerned Ministries/Departments.

The Standing Committees also do not generally consider the matters which are under consideration by other Parliamentary Committees.

The Standing Committees also do not consider the Public Undertakings as they exclusively fall within the jurisdiction of Committee on Public Undertakings.

*Procedure relating to consideration of Demands for Grants*

After the general discussion on the Budget in the House is over, the Houses are adjourned for a fixed period. The Committees consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries during the aforesaid period and submit their report within the period without seeking any extension of time for the same. There is a separate report on the

Demands for Grants of each Ministry. The Demands for Grants are considered by the House in the light of the reports of the Committees.

*Procedure relating to consideration of Bills*

The Committee consider only such Bills introduced in either of the Houses as are referred to them by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha as the case may be. The Committees consider the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to them and make report thereon within the given time.

*Examination of Annual Reports*

Besides consideration of Demands for Grants and the Bills referred to them, the Committees may select other subjects for examination on the basis of Annual Reports of the Ministries/ Departments within the jurisdiction of the respective Committees.

*Appointment of sub-Committees/Study Groups*

The Chairperson may appoint Study Groups/sub-Committees from amongst the members of the respective Committee with a view to making detailed study/examination of the subject selected by them, scrutinise the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the previous reports and for considering procedural and general matters.

*Procedure for examination of subjects*

The rules applicable to the other Parliamentary Committees are applicable to these Committees also. Examination of subject is done in various stages viz. calling of preliminary material, calling for written replies, calling of Memoranda from non-officials and evidence of the non-officials and officials.

*Association of Specialists/Technical Experts/Consultants, etc.*

The Committees may associate specialists/technical experts/consultants, etc. at various stages of examination of a subject, if necessary.

*On the spot visits/Study Tours*

The Committees/Study Groups of the Committees may with prior permission of the Speaker, Lok Sabha, or Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, undertake, if necessary, on the spot study/ visits of various Institutions and Establishments connected with the subject-matter under consideration.

*Reports and Minutes*

The conclusions of each of the Committees on a subject examined are contained in its report, which after its adoption by the respective Committee and factual verification by the Ministry concerned, is presented by the concerned Chairperson to the respective Houses.

Minutes of the sittings of Committees are laid on the Table of the House along with the relevant reports.

The reports are adopted by broad consensus among the members. However, a member of the Committee may give a note of dissent on the report of the Committee and it is presented to the House along with the report.

#### *Action Taken Reports*

The Reports of the Committees have persuasive value and are treated as considered advice given by the Committee. The Demands for Grants and the Bills, which are reported upon by the Committees, are considered by the Houses in the light of the reports of the Committees. In respect of reports on Demands for Grants and other subjects the Ministry or the Department concerned, is required to take action on the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report and furnish action taken replies thereon, within three months.

Action taken notes received from the Ministries/Departments are examined by the Committee and Action-taken Reports thereon are presented to the House.

#### *Statement by Minister on Committee Reports*

The Minister, with regard to the Ministry concerned, shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committees of Lok Sabha.

**68. Railway Convention Committee.** — (i) The Railway Convention Committee is an *ad hoc* Committee constituted from time-to-time to review the rate of dividend which is payable by the railway undertaking to the general revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with railway finance *vis-a-vis* general finance and make recommendations thereon. Apart from recommending the rate of dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues, it also suggests the level of appropriation to various funds of Railways like the Depreciation Reserve Fund, Development Fund, Pension Fund, Capital Fund and Railway Safety Works Fund (RSW) etc. House or the Speaker may also refer *ad hoc* issues of public importance relating to the Railways and Railway Finances to the Committee for examination. The Committee of 1949, 1954, 1960 and 1965 confined themselves only to the question of determining the Rate of Dividend payable by the Railway undertaking during the succeeding quinquennium. Since 1971, for the first time, the Railway Convention Committee has, in addition to recommending the Rate of Dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues, also been taking up other subjects for detailed examination having a

bearing on the working of Railways and Railway Finances. The Committee selects for its examination subjects related to the working of Railways/matters connected with carrying social and defence obligations by Railways shortly after its constitution. The Committee once constituted functions till the dissolution of the Lok Sabha or becomes *functus officio* after presenting its final report regarding rate of dividend. Since 1954 each Lok Sabha has been having a Railway Convention Committee.

(ii) The Committee is constituted from time-to-time on the basis of resolution adopted by Lok Sabha and concurred in by Rajya Sabha. It consists of 18 members. Twelve members from Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker and six members from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, are associated with the Committee. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee. The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Railways\* are among the members nominated to the Committee.

(iii) With effect from the financial year 2017-18, the Railway Finance has been merged with General Finance and as a consequence no separate Railway Budget is presented to the Parliament and payment of dividend by the Railways to the General Revenue has been dispensed with.

**69. Other Parliamentary Committees.—** (1) In addition to the Standing Parliamentary Committees as mentioned certain other Parliamentary Committees are also appointed by the House or the Speaker as the case may be from time-to-time on *ad hoc* basis as and when necessary for a particular purpose, such as Select/Joint Committee on a Bill for example Select Committee on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1996; Joint Committee on the

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\* For the first time, the Minister of Finance was not nominated as a member of the Railway Convention Committee (1989). After change of Government at the Centre on 10 November, 1990 the new Railway Minister was also not nominated to the Committee and the former Railway Minister continued to be a member of the Committee. The earlier practice was revived in the Railway Convention Committee (1991) with the nomination of the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Finance as members of the Committee *w.e.f.* 18 April, 1994 and 18 May, 1994 respectively. However, in Railway Convention Committee (1996) only Minister of Railways was nominated as a member of the Committee. In the Railway Convention Committee (1998-1999 and 2004-2009) neither of the two Ministers was nominated as member. Shri K.C. Venugopal, MP was nominated as a Member of RCC *vide* Bulletin-Part II, Para No. 1256 dated 15.3.2010. He became Minister of State *vide* notification No. 1/34/1/2011-Cab dated 19.1.2011. However, he continued as a member of RCC and attended sitting of the Committee on 4.2.2011. Shri Venugopal resigned from the membership of RCC *w.e.f.* 21.12.2011 *vide* Bulletin No. 3572 dated 27.12.2011.

Shri P. Balram Naik and Dr. Girija Vyas, MPs were nominated as members of RCC *vide* Bulletin-Part II, Para No. 1256 dated 15.3.2010 and they became Minister on 28.10.2012 and 17.6.2013 *vide* Notification Nos. 1/34/1/2012-Cab and 1/34/1/2013- Cab respectively. They continued to be the Members of RCC.

Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 1996; Joint Committee on the Broadcasting Bill, 1997; Joint Committee on Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1998; Committee to inquire into the misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha (2007) and Committee on Draft Five Year Plans and Joint Committee to suggest facilities and remuneration for Members of Parliament (1993). Joint Committee on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015; Joint Committee on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015; Joint Committee on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016; Joint Committee on the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016; Joint Committee on the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017.

The Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) on special issues are constituted to investigate serious issues which have greatly agitated the public mind and which involves frauds or corruption on a large scale. Such Committees are set up on the basis of a consensus arrived at between the Government and the Opposition. JPC is a well known and potent investigative mechanism of Parliament. These Committees becomes *functus officio* after submission of their report to the Parliament. The following JPCs in this category have been constituted so far—(i) Joint Committee to enquire into Bofors Contract (1987); (ii) Joint Committee to enquire into Irregularities in Securities and Banking Transactions (1992); (iii) Joint Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (2001); (iv) Joint Committee on Pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages (2003); and (v) Joint Committee to examine matters relating to Allocation and Pricing of Telecom Licences and Spectrum (2011).

Besides, the following Committees are also being appointed by the Presiding Officers on *ad hoc* basis for particular purposes for the last few years on the basis of periodically assessing their need *viz*, Joint Committee on Food Management in Parliament House Complex; Joint Committee on Installation of Portraits/Statues of National Leaders and Parliamentarians in Parliament House Complex; Joint Committee on Maintenance of Heritage Character and Development of Parliament House Complex; Joint Committee on Security in Parliament House Complex and Joint Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes; etc. The Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Lok Sabha; the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (Lok Sabha) and the Committee on Violation of Protocol Norms and Contemptuous Behaviour of Government Officers with Members of Lok Sabha are House specific *ad hoc* Committees of Lok Sabha.

(2) The constitution, composition and functions, etc. of these Committees constituted by the Houses through motions are laid down in the motions and in the case of Committees constituted by the Presiding Officers their terms of reference are decided by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman, Rajya Sabha in consultation with each other as may be necessary subject to the relevant rules and directions relating to Parliamentary Committees.