

## CHAPTER VI

### PARLIAMENT LIBRARY AND REFERENCE, RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION SERVICE (LARRDIS)

**75. Objectives of the Service.**—The primary objective of the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) is to cater to the multifarious information needs of members of both the Houses of Parliament and provide, *inter alia*, research and reference material on legislative and other important issues coming up for discussion before the two Houses—the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. To achieve this objective, the Service consists of professional and non-professional staff and is divided into seven Divisions: (i) Library Division; (ii) Reference Division; (iii) Research and Information Division; (iv) Media Relations Division; (v) Parliament Museum and Archives Division; (vi) Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training; and (vii) Computer (Hardware & Software) Management Branch (Software Unit). These Divisions have been further subdivided into various functional Wings and Sections with well-defined duties and spheres of work.

**76. Research and Information Division.**—The research and information services for Members of Parliament are provided by the Research and Information and Members' Reference Divisions. Officers and staff in the Research and Information Division are categorized into the following specialised functional Wings/Sections:

- (i) Economic and Financial Affairs Wing;
- (ii) Educational and Scientific Affairs Wing;
- (iii) Journal of Parliamentary Information (JPI) Section;
- (iv) Legal and Constitutional Affairs Wing;
- (v) Parliamentary Affairs Wing;
- (vi) Political Affairs Wing;
- (vii) Practice and Procedure Unit;
- (viii) Social Affairs Wing; and
- (ix) Who's Who Cell & *Ad-hoc* Publications.

The functions of the Research and Information Division are broadly to assess in advance the information requirements of members by anticipating and identifying subjects of current parliamentary interest,

including legislative measures on which Parliament is likely to undertake discussions and which are likely to generate demands from members for detailed information and data.

The Division endeavours to keep Members of Parliament informed on a continuous basis about the current developments, both national and international and brings out, both in English and Hindi, Brochures, Information Bulletins, Background Notes, etc., which carry objective information. All these publications are based on authentic published sources and continuous efforts are made to keep them up-to-date.

Apart from this, the Research and Information Division prepares a large number of Briefs, Statements, Resolutions, etc., for the Indian Parliamentary Delegations going to other countries on good-will visits or for participating in International Parliamentary Conferences/Seminars/Workshops held worldwide under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians and the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference. Factual notes on countries to be visited by the Indian Delegations or on countries wherefrom various Delegations come to India are also prepared.

The Division also brings out, from time to time, Books on parliamentary and constitutional matters, besides Booklets at the time of unveiling of statues and portraits of national leaders in the Parliament Complex. Considering the importance of objective information in respect of national policies, the Division has, over the years, brought out several Brochures highlighting the various national policy formulations. Two series of Monographs, namely, the *Eminent Parliamentarians Monograph Series* and the *Distinguished Parliamentarians Felicitation Monograph Series* are also brought out by the Division. While the former endeavours to recall the services rendered by eminent parliamentarians of yesteryears, the latter attempts to felicitate the distinguished leaders and parliamentarians who continue to serve the country in very many ways today.

Information contained in the documents and publications prepared by the Division is based on authentic sources, reference to which is suitably indicated therein, the aim being to provide an objective presentation of facts. No responsibility is accepted by the Secretariat for the accuracy or veracity of the information supplied. Members, while making use of the information supplied, either in the House or outside, should, therefore, cite the original books or documents as the source of information, without quoting the Research and Information Division of LARRDIS as the source.

### **Periodicals**

The Research and Information Division brings out the following periodicals regularly:

*The Journal of Parliamentary Information (Quarterly)*: The Journal serves as an authentic recorder of developments in practice and procedure and parliamentary events and activities in Indian and foreign Legislatures. It also carries articles on constitutional and parliamentary subjects from Members of Parliament and other experts in the field.

*Digest of Central Acts (Quarterly)*: The Digest contains synopses of all the Bills passed by Parliament and assented to by the President.

*Digest of Legislative and Constitutional Cases (Quarterly)*: The Digest contains abstracts of judgments of the Supreme Court and the High Courts involving interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution in important legislative and constitutional cases.

*IPG Newsletter (Quarterly)*: The Newsletter keeps members of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) informed of the various events and activities of the IPG like exchange of Parliamentary Delegations, IPU, CPA and the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians Conferences, Seminars, Symposia, Meetings, etc.

Copies of the periodicals brought out by LARRDIS are made available to members on request. Other priced publications, including books brought out by LARRDIS, may be purchased by Members of Parliament at a special discount of 50 per cent of the sale price of the publication.

**77. Members' Reference Service**— The Members' Reference Service organises the dissemination of factual, objective and latest information, on demand, to the members of both the Houses of Parliament, Presiding Officers and the Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees on important legislative measures and other subjects of economic, socio-political, constitutional and legal interest. The main objective of this Service is to keep the members informed of important developments in India and abroad in various fields and to supply them relevant information and material on subjects required in connection with their parliamentary work. The facilities provided by the Members' Reference Service fall broadly under the following categories:

- (i) Supply of on-the-spot references to members from published documents;
- (ii) Collection of latest information, statistics, etc. in response to members' written reference requisitions;

- (iii) Preparation of Reference Notes on subjects of contemporary interest;
- (iv) Preparation of Legislative Notes on important Bills, either pending or coming up before Parliament;
- (v) Preparation of Background Notes, Information Bulletins, Fact Sheets and Information Folders on topical issues by anticipating members' reference needs; and
- (vi) Updating and printing of *ad hoc* publications issued by the Service from time to time.

The scope of material to be collected in response to members' references is normally **limited to subjects connected with the immediate business before either House of Parliament**. Members requiring detailed information on any subject can send a requisition in writing to the Reference Wing in the prescribed form available at the Members' Assistance Desks, one located in the Parliament House and the other in the Parliament Library Building, indicating precisely the points on which information is required and the date and time by which it is to be furnished. Members can also convey their requirements over telephone or through fax.

#### **Online Reference Service through Members' e-Portal**

As an initiative towards e-Parliament and Paperless Secretariat, **a Members' e-Portal for the benefit of members was launched on 17 July, 2016. The Portal offers several online services including online references. The module, namely, 'Online Reference Services' has been incorporated in the Portal to facilitate members to send their reference queries online and get the desired information through e-resources in the inbox of the Portal.** Electronic versions of the Reference/Legislative Notes are also sent through e-Portal and e-mailed to the members of both the Houses of Parliament. A large number of occasional papers including Reference/Legislative Notes are available on the Parliament Library Home Page and on the Intranet in digital format for online retrieval by members of Parliament and for use in the Secretariat.

#### **Collection of Information**

Information is collected/compiled from authentic sources, *e.g.* Reports, Government publications, standard books, journals and through official and authentic websites etc. in an objective manner and supplied to the Members by the stipulated date and time. Reference Service caters to the information needs of members both in English and Hindi as per their choice.

Information supplied to members is based on one or the other source material, suitably indicated therein. Information supplied to members is meant as a help in the discharge of their parliamentary duties and not for publication or use in any other manner.

### **Publications**

The Members' Reference Service also updates and publishes regularly the following publications:—

- **Parliament of India**—A Study, brought out at the end of the term or dissolution of each Lok Sabha (covered up to the 15th Lok Sabha).
- **President's Rule in the States and Union Territories**—It presents in a tabular form important details relating to the Presidential Proclamations made under Article 356 of the Constitution and under Section 51 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, since 1950 (updated and revised upto 2016).
- **Presidential Ordinances**—It provides information on Ordinances promulgated by the President from time-to-time and processes leading to subsequent Acts passed, since 1950 (revised upto 2014).
- **Council of Ministers**—It contains the names and portfolios of members of the Union Cabinet, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers in alphabetical order since 1947 (updated and revised upto 2015).
- **India**—Some Facts (updated version brought out twice in a year).
- **Time spent on various kinds of Business in Lok Sabha**—An Analysis.

### **78. Library Services**

Parliament Library is located in the Parliament Library Building (in 'A' Block on Ground Floor). With its present holding of about 1.7 million volumes of printed books, Reports, Acts & Bills, Governmental Publications, U.N. Reports, Debates, Gazettes and other documents including Periodicals, Newspapers and Publications brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Parliament Library is the second largest Library and one of the finest and richest repositories in the country. Total 87 newspapers (Indian, Foreign and Regional languages) and 393 periodicals in Hindi, English and other Indian languages are received regularly in Parliament Library. The Library caters to the information needs of "the Members of Parliament and

other users primarily by way of issuing books, reports, debates and other documents, attending to on-the-spot references and preparing select bibliographies on various subjects and personalities.

The principal functions of the Library Division are acquisition, processing, administration, preservation and issue/return of books, periodicals, reports and other published material received from various sources. The emphasis throughout has been on the concept of building the Library into a dynamic living organism like the great institution of Parliament which it serves, capable of thinking ahead and planning new tools and services to meet the multifarious and growing needs of its special clientele. Parliament Library, in fact, reflects in its acquisition the entire gamut of national activity in its totality.

Library management functions such as acquisition, processing and issue and return of books have been computerized by using the Library management software package called–LIBSYS. From the 2016 upgraded new version of LIBSYS Software *i.e.* LIBSYS 7 has been adopted. The complete bibliographical details of books, reports and articles are fed on to the computer using this package to ensure their online availability. The Library catalogue can be accessed online through '**Parliament of India Homepage**' *i.e.* [https://loksabha.nic.in/Parliament Library](https://loksabha.nic.in/Parliament%20Library)→Search→Catalogue Search.

Online access of Library catalogue provides information about author, title, subject and keywords-based searches in order to save the time of the members and other readers to have the requisite information. Subject bibliographies and select lists of publications on various subjects are provided to members on request.

### ***E-Resources of Library***

In order to strengthen and enrich the e-resources the Parliament Library has subscribed the collection of e-books, e-journals, e-databases, CDs/DVDs and audio-books.

- a. **Online data base:** Parliament Library has subscribed the J-Gate online database to access the research information of over 56 million journal articles with access to 11 million Full Text Articles covering multiple subject domains like Engineering, Technology, Social & Management Sciences, Arts, Humanities, Basic Sciences, Biomedical and Agricultural Sciences.

The information can be access within the premises of Parliament House Complex by using following path:  
<https://loksabha.nic.in>→Parliament Library→e-Resources→Online searches through J-Gate.

- b. **Digital Resources:** For promoting e-resources in library, the institutional membership of National Digital Library of India has been taken for members of Parliament and senior officers of LSS Registered members can access more than two crore digital resources on various subjects such as Computer Science, Information & General Works, Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, Social Sciences, Languages, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Technology, Arts, Literature, History and Geography in English, Hindi, Bengali and Gujarati through login ID and password. The sansad e-mail ID is the login ID and the password has been sent on their sansad e-mail ID. The rich digital content are available through a Mobile App as well.
- c. **E-books:** This facility consisting of procurement of CDs/ DVDs on different subject keeping in view the core areas of interests of members and latest technological advances has been opened for the use of Hon'ble Members of Parliament. These CDs can be browsed online and users can choose/select any particular e-book which can be viewed online or downloaded.

#### ***Provision of Braille facility***

The Committee felt that facility for visually challenged people is needed in the Parliament Library and for this, separate room with well equipped Braille facility has been created in Library. Accordingly, facility of Digital Access Information System has been provided for visually challenged/print disabled users in one of the rooms of library. One system with printer, one high speed scanner with Fine Reader Optical Character Recognition Software (OCR) and Indo Non-Visual Desktop Access (NVDA) Software have been installed in main Library to make the library accessible for visually and print disabled persons.

#### ***Specialised Collections of Library***

##### **(a) Rare and Art Books**

The Parliament Library possesses a rich collection of over a thousand rare books on Politics, Law and History including books on Art, Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. A book titled 'The History of the Late Revolution of the Empire of the Great Mogel' by Mons. F. Bernier, published in 1671 is one of the oldest book available in the Parliament Library.

##### **(b) Original Calligraphed Constitution of India**

Another important rare document in the possession of Parliament Library is the ORIGINAL CALLIGRAPHED

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA (in Hindi and English). This document is of great value as it contains the signatures of the founding fathers of the Constitution, many of whom played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of the country.

**(c) Gandhiana**

As a mark of respect to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation and to make available all the works by and on the Mahatma at one place, a separate Gandhiana Section was opened in the Parliament Library on 9 August, 1978. Members and scholars interested in a deeper study and extensive research on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi have welcomed the Gandhiana, which contains books by and on Mahatma Gandhi in English, Hindi and various Indian regional languages. These are stacked in Room No. G 048.

**(d) Nehruana**

Similarly, the books written on and by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India have also been stacked separately in Room No. G 050. The collection contains books in Hindi, English and various Indian regional languages.

**(e) Literature on Indian Languages**

The Parliament Library has been laying great emphasis on developing its language collections. A separate Wing containing nearly 1,25,880 books in various Indian languages has been carved out in the Library. The languages covered, apart from Hindi and Sanskrit, are: (i) Assamese; (ii) Bengali; (iii) Bodo; (iv) Dogri; (v) Gujarati; (vi) Kannada; (vii) Kashmiri; (viii) Konkani; (ix) Maithili; (x) Malayalam; (xi) Manipuri; (xii) Marathi; (xiii) Nepali; (xiv) Odia; (xv) Punjabi; (xvi) Rajasthani; (xvii) Santhali; (xviii) Sindhi; (xix) Tamil; (xx) Telugu; and (xxi) Urdu. Concerted efforts are under way to enrich this collection by adding more and more basic standard works in each of these and other Indian languages.

***Working Hours***

The Library remains open from 1000 hours to 1800 hours on all working days. During the session periods, however, the Library functions from 0900 hours to 1900 hours or till the rising of the Houses, whichever is later. During session periods, the Library also

remains open from 1000 hours to 1400 hours on Saturdays/Sundays/Holidays (except National Holidays and on the day of Holi).

### **Stacking Arrangement**

(a) Books in Hindi, English and other Indian languages are stacked in Basement-I whereas all the reports of Central/State Governments including U.N. and foreign reports have been stacked in Basement-II, of the Library building.

(b) Display of Newspapers and Periodicals—Latest newspapers and periodicals are displayed in the Library Halls of Parliament Library Building and Parliament House for the information and use of members.

### **Issue and return of Publications**

The issue of books from the library is regulated by Library Rules, copies of which printed both in English and Hindi can be obtained on request from the Library.

**Library Rules**—The following Library Rules are reproduced for the information of members:—

1. Parliament Library is intended for the exclusive use of Members of Parliament and Officers of the Secretariats of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. With a view to facilitate optimum use of collection, the Library is also open to former Members of Parliament, sitting Members of the State Legislatures, accredited media persons, *bonafide* Research Scholars from India and abroad, Officers of the Government of India, State Governments, Public Undertakings and Statutory Bodies. As a new initiative and to extend the library services, consulting facilities of using the library are given to retired senior officers of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat/Central and State Governments initially for three years on depositing a security of Rs. 10000, with the Budget and Payment Branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

2. The use of Parliament Library for the purpose of study by personal staff of members of Lok Sabha or *bonafide* Research Scholars requires special permission in writing from the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha or an officer designated by him for the purpose. In the case of members of Rajya Sabha, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha may grant such permission. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha or Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, may grant permission if he/she is satisfied that a particular person is actually required to assist a member for collecting information which may help him in the efficient discharge of his duties as a member.

The pass may however be issued for a limited period not exceeding three months, depending upon the nature of project undertaken.

3. Library facility is extended to PAs/PSs to Members of Parliament for a period of one week only, subject to its renewal for one more week during Session periods. However, during inter-session periods, the Library passes may be issued for fifteen days. PAs/PSs to members are issued General Entry Passes by Parliamentary Notice Office (PNO) and in order to ensure that only genuine PAs/PSs to members make use of the Library, the facilities may be extended to only those PAs/PSs to members, who are holding General Entry Passes issued by the PNO.

4. In case of Research Scholars, the application form for seeking permission to study in the Library, should be submitted along with the recommendation letter from respective University/Guide/Organisation, valid identity proof and Police Clearance Certificate. The Certificate to be obtained by the applicants from their nearby police station. In the first instance, the pass will be issued for one month. The facility can be extended up to three months on monthly basis, after a written request is received from the user for the same, provided the Library Incharge certifies that the Library is extensively being used by the Research Scholar, failing which extension will be denied.

5. Research Scholars who are granted fellowships by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on subjects of parliamentary interest may be given access to the Parliament Library and other relevant documents pertaining to their fellowships for consulting only, during Session as well as inter-session periods on a specific request by Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST).

Permission for the use of Library in cases mentioned at (4) & (5) shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (i) No books, periodicals or other documents shall be taken out of the Library and no person shall handle book, etc., in stack room, or in almirahs, racks and book cases, etc. The books required shall be supplied by the Library staff and these shall be returned before leaving the Parliament Library.
- (ii) The issue or withholding of any book, report, etc., of the Parliament Library even for consultation shall be at the discretion of the Joint Director in-charge of the Library.
- (iii) No clerical or typing assistance shall be provided.

(iv) Timings for study shall be decided by the concerned Joint Director.

6. Library facilities may also be provided to the Press Correspondents accredited to the Press Gallery subject to similar conditions as are applicable to the personal staff of Members and Research Scholars under Rule 2 above.

7. Former Members of Parliament may borrow books from the Library on depositing a security of Rs. 2500/- with the Budget and Payment Branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

8. All requisitions for the issue of books and other publications shall be made on the prescribed form. Not more than one book/publication shall be entered on each form.

9. Ordinarily, not more than two books and two other publications (including volumes of a book or other publication) shall be issued on Loan at a time to a member.

10. (a) On the termination of a Session, books and other publications borrowed by a member shall be returned to Parliament Library before he leaves the station. Members staying in Delhi shall be able to make use of the Parliament Library, as usual.

(b) No book or other publication loaned to a member shall be taken out of Delhi.

11. (a) During the Sessions of Parliament, books and other publications borrowed from Parliament Library shall be retained for not more than fifteen days but this period may be extended by seven days if the request for renewal is made in advance and provided these are not in demand.

(b) During the inter-session periods, books and other publications shall be retained for a period not exceeding 30 days.

12. In the event of a book/publication on loan being required for any important or urgent purpose, the same may be recalled at any time and such a book/publication shall be returned by the member within 24 hours.

13. Any member requiring a book or other publication, which is issued out, may get it reserved for him at the Circulation Counter and such a book/publication shall be issued to the member in the order of priority, as soon as it is received back.

14. (a) In no case, shall a member keep any book or other publication for more than 15 days during Session period or 30 days during inter-session period. No additional book or any other publication

may be issued to a defaulting member till the outstanding book/publication is returned to Parliament Library. Books may be got re-issued, if there is no demand from other users of the Parliament Library for those books. For this purpose, the books shall be returned physically at the Books Circulation Counter and got re-issued after a week.

(b) Books/reports/publications that are required by members are kept for them at the Circulation Counter for a period of two weeks only. At the expiry of the two week period, these books/reports/publications shall be restored to the shelves, if no further extension is asked for.

15. If a book or other publication is not returned to the Parliament Library after the expiry of its due date, it will be presumed lost and steps shall be taken to recover the cost from the member concerned as indicated below:—

Sl. No.	Publication	Cost to be recovered
(i)	Indian book/publication printed during the last five years.	Double the original price
(ii)	Indian book/publication printed more than five years back.	Three times the original price.
(iii)	Foreign publication printed during the last five years.	Double the original price.
(iv)	Foreign publication printed more than five years back.	Three times the original price.
(v)	Foreign publication which is "Out of Print"	Five times the original price.
(vi)	Indian book/publication which is "Out of Print"	Five times the original price.
(vii)	Indian or Foreign publication for which price is not available.	1 rupee per page.

16. Encyclopedias, dictionaries, directories, year books, atlases, periodicals (current as well as old issues), books on art, painting and other illustrated books, rare books, books which are out of print, reference books, newspapers (current and back numbers), press clipping folders (current and old ones), serials and books in damaged and brittle condition shall not be issued out. Such books/publications/folders shall be made available for consultation in Parliament Library premises only.

17. No new book or other publication shall be issued to members till after a week of their having been displayed in a separate shelf marked "Latest Arrivals". Each new addition shall bear the date up to which it would remain on display.

18. The journals or periodicals shall not be permitted to be taken out of the Library under any circumstances.

19. Marking of any kind, underlining and writing on books or other publications is strictly forbidden.

20. Books and reports pertaining to a Bill or Resolution or any other matter which is either under discussion or is to come up before either House immediately shall not be issued so long as the matter is pending consideration before Parliament.

21. From the time books or other publications are issued and until they are returned to Parliament Library, the borrower shall be responsible for their proper maintenance and in the event of any damage or loss, the borrower shall be required either to replace the book/publication or to pay up their replacement cost at the rates prescribed in these Rules.

22. Pass Books shall be maintained at the Circulation Counters of Parliament Library in respect of Members of Parliament for the issue and receipt of books/publications. When a book/publication is issued, the member shall sign in the relevant column of the Pass Book in token of having received the book/publication. While returning the books/publications, the Library staff on duty at the Circulation Counter shall sign the Pass Book in token of having received back the book/publication.

23. In case a member is unable to come to the Parliament Library personally, he or she may obtain books, reports, etc., on loan through their Private Secretary/Personal Assistant subject to furnishing a letter of authority, in the prescribed form. The members shall, however, be personally responsible for the safe custody of the books and their return.

24. Smoking in any part of Parliament Library and taking of meals and/refreshments in the Reading Rooms are strictly prohibited.

25. No stranger shall be admitted into any sector of the Parliament Library unless accompanied by a member or an officer of Parliament.

26. Suggestions for the purchase of new books, periodicals and newspapers shall be made on the prescribed form available at the Circulation Counter.

27. Feedback/suggestion registers are available at the entry gates of PLB and PH.

28. Regulation of entry to Parliament Library premises shall be subject to such orders and instructions as may be laid down from time to time.

### ***Members' Reference-cum-Circulation Counters***

The Members' Reference-cum-Circulation Counters in Parliament House and Parliament Library Building (Ground Floor) make available to Members of Parliament books, reports of Central and State Governments, Bills, Acts, debates of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, newspapers and periodicals and publications of the United Nations and its allied agencies and other documents of reference value.

There is a centralized circulation service from where all the Library documents are issued and received back. This service operates from Circulation Counter, 'A' block, Ground Floor (G 045), PLB. The readers are expected to return the books promptly so that others may also use them.

A monthly publication titled 'Parliament Library Bulletin' is brought out to inform the members about the latest books and reports added to the Parliament Library every month.

### ***Reading Room Facilities***

The Reading Room for Members is located in the Central core of the Parliament Library Building and faces the internal courtyard. This Hall is two-storey high, with a capacity of 60 seats each on the Ground Floor and the First Floor. Members can have their seats reserved and books, documents, etc. which they need are provided on the seat and also kept reserved, if desired. Latest newspapers and periodicals, magazines and various publications brought out by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats are displayed in the Library Hall of Parliament Library Building and Parliament House.

For those members who desire to study in Parliament Library, reading facilities with internet are provided in reading hall number G 045 and also G 061 in PLB. Members may also reserve books to facilitate reference.

### ***Display of Books***

New Books added to the Library are on display for a period of one week in the Library. During this period, the books are not issued.

However, members can get these books reserved, by filling in a prescribed form available at the counter, for issue on the expiry of the period of display.

The information pertaining to various functional Wings and Sections of LARRDIS has been incorporated in the web portal of Parliament Library and links to various heads have been provided to the online information available on the Lok Sabha Home Page *i.e.* <https://loksabha.nic.in>→Parliament Library.

### ***Parliament Digital Library***

As an initiative towards e-Parliament, a website of “Parliament Digital Library” has been developed at *eparlib.nic.in* which has debates and documents from 1858 to 2019. The portal was announced by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan on 11 December, 2018 and the link of the same has been placed at the Lok Sabha Home Page. It took nearly 5 years to digitize archival parliamentary documents and to place them on this new website which acts more like a search engine and gives results within a fraction of seconds. There are nearly 4 lakh documents containing approx. 40 lakh pages.

One of the most important collections is the historic legislative debates, tracing the growth and development of modern parliamentary institutions in India, from 1858 to 1952, thereby covering a period of 95 years. This collection includes debates of the Indian Legislative Council; Central Legislative Assembly; Council of State; Constituent Assembly (Draft Making); Constituent Assembly (Legislative); and Provisional Parliament.

The Lok Sabha Debates is another collection which has each day’s proceedings from the first sitting of the First Lok Sabha, that is, from 31 May, 1952 to 31 December, 2018. The Lok Sabha Debates can also be browsed by several parameters like by name of the Member, by debate type, and by question type from Eleventh to Sixteenth Lok Sabha.

Another significant collection is Parliamentary Documents under which 9800 Reports of various Parliamentary Committees like Financial Committee, DRSCs, and other Standing Committees of Lok Sabha are placed. The portal also has all the Presidential Addresses to Parliament and the Budget Speeches.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat brings out several publications for the information needs of the members. This collection provides knowledge creation of the data generated by the Indian Parliament in the form of books, periodicals and Information Bulletins.

The portal is growing and more and more documents will be digitized and uploaded here. The twin objective of portal is to provide archival debates *anytime anywhere* to the users and to *preserve* the physical copies of parliamentary documents. Besides being an eco-friendly project, it is also a step towards paperless policy.

#### **79. Acquisition Section**

This section is responsible for selection and purchase of books. Books and publications for the Library are selected and acquired from the entire field of human activity relating to almost all subjects with special emphasis, of course, on legislative requirements of members. In addition, books are added on the suggestions from members of Parliament and others.

Books and publications are also received for addition in the Library on copyright complimentary basis, donated by Members of Parliament or other individuals and institutions. The publications are also acquired under exchange arrangement with National and International Organizations.

**80. Library Committee:** A Library Committee is constituted every year by the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha to advice on all matters concerning Parliament Library. The Committee consists of six Members from the Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker and three Members from the Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee; provided that the Deputy Speaker, in case is a Member of the Committee, shall be appointed as Chairman of the Committee. Casual vacancies in the Committee are filled by nomination by the Speaker in respect of the members from Lok Sabha, and by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha in respect of the members from Rajya Sabha. Library Committee keeps a watch on the quality and quantum of all acquisitions and gives comments and suggestions to further improve the functioning of the Library and its ancillary services. The term of the Committee is one year.

The functions of the Committee are: (i) to consider and advise on such matters concerning the library as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time; (ii) to consider suggestions for the improvement of the library; and (iii) to assist members of the Parliament in fully utilizing the services provided by the Library.

The Library Committee keeps a watch on the quality and quantum of all acquisitions of the Library and gives comments and suggestions to further improve the functioning of the Library and its ancillary

services. The Committee in a way acts as a liaison between the members of Parliament and the Library. Minutes of the sittings are bound and kept for further reference.

### **81. Documentation Service**

The Documentation Service of Parliament Library, which was set up in 1975 is primarily responsible for indexing of articles published in periodicals/journals received in the Parliament Library that may be of interest to the Members of Parliament. The indexed entries of selected articles contain bibliographical details such as name of the author, title, name, date and year of publication, suitable annotation and subject headings as per the specially devised scheme of classification. The indexed entries of articles for a fortnight are fed into the LIBSYS software and published in the form of a publication. The bibliographic details of selected articles were earlier published with the title '*Documentation fortnightly*' (January 1975 to December 1988). However, from January 1989 onwards, it is being published entitled 'Parliamentary Documentation'.

From August 2008, the Service also brings out a publication in Hindi titled 'Sansadiya Pralekhan' so as to cater to the information needs of all users who intend to take bibliographic details of articles appearing in Hindi periodicals/journals being received in the Parliament Library.

To improve the Documentation Service, an upgraded version of LIBSYS 7 software has been installed in February 2016 having facility to link the text of each article with its bibliographical details through Title Link. In this process, the text of each article is being scanned, the PDF file of the same is prepared and linked with the bibliographical details both in English and Hindi. The same can also be accessed and retrieved just by clicking the Title from January 2017 onwards through the Parliament Library Homepage within the premises of Parliament House Complex.

The electronic versions of 'Parliamentary Documentation' and 'Sansadiya Pralekhan' are being sent to Members of Parliament and officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Secretariats at their e-mail addresses. The Publications are also made available at web addresses: <http://parliamentlibraryindia.nic.in/Issue.aspx>→for 'Parliamentary Documentation' (In English) and <http://164.100.47.194/loksabhadhindi/Library/Issue.aspx>→for 'Sansadiya Pralekhan' (In Hindi). The Indexed articles may be searched online from various parameters such as name of the author, title of the article, name and year of the publication, subject of the articles etc. through "Catalogue Search"

on Parliament Library Homepage. Important articles on current topics both in English and Hindi are also being uploaded weekly on the same websites for reference purpose.

Though the 'Parliamentary Documentation, and the 'Sansadiya Pralekhan' are available on Parliament Library Homepage, a few computer generated copies of the publications are taken out and kept in the Parliament Library for consultation of Members of Parliament and Officers of both the Secretariats. Bound volumes of 'Documentation Fortnightly' (1975-1988), 'Parliamentary Documentation' (1989 Onwards) and the 'Sansadiya Pralekhan' (August 2008 onwards) are also available for reference purpose.

## **82. Press Clipping Service**

This Service, set up in 1956, caters to the latest information needs of Members of Parliament to answer enquiries and attend references of members of Parliament: to help the Research and Reference staff/Committee branches in their work in connection with the preparation of Fact Sheets, information Bulletins, Occasional/ Background Papers and other study material for meeting the anticipated or specified needs of the members and the staff; and to make available specific subject folders for the purpose of reference and study material to members of Parliament and to Officers and staff working for them, in the Secretariats of both Houses of Parliament, media persons accredited to the Press Gallery, Scholars granted Parliamentary internship, Officers of the State Legislatures, Government and Public Sector Undertakings and to *bona fide* research scholars by providing them relevant and up-to-date Press Clippings of news-items, editorial comments and articles on important developments in legislative, political, economic, socio-cultural, scientific and technological fields both on national and international field from selected 29 newspapers both in English (18) and Hindi (11).

Since 2017 the Press Clipping Section is fully computerised, pdf files are prepared for every selected news items from the newspapers available on-line/offline, along with classification number, name and date of the newspaper. These pdf files are uploaded on a specially designed database, along with the rendering of title; sub-title; name of newspaper; date of publishing, author, classification number with relevant key words. These clippings can be retrieved through classification number, subject, keywords, newspapers and date-wise from the computers connected in the Local Area Network in Parliament House Complex and Printouts of these news clippings can be taken out from the Lok Sabha intranet and from "Parliament Library Home page under Press Clipping".

The news Clippings belongs to pre 2017 era are maintained chronologically in subject folders and stacked in proper sequence, according to a specially devised classification scheme based on the Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme. These folders are not issued out and are consulted in the Reading Rooms of Parliament Library and the Press Clippings Section.

Ordinarily, Press clippings are retained for five years. However, important clippings of lasting value and interest and those having a bearing on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects are retained permanently.

**83. Gazettes and Debates Section**—The Section is located on First Basement in Hall No. FB 025 of 'G' Block of the Parliament Library Building. It maintains the debates of the Central Legislative Assembly, Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislatures and foreign Parliaments (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Pakistan, U.K. and U.S.A.) and indices of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha debates for reference and research by Members of Parliament and their PSs/PAs, Officers of both the Secretariats of Parliament, media persons, Research Scholars and others engaged in the working of the Parliamentary institutions. The Section also maintains the Gazette Notifications of Union and State Governments and Union territories. Original Verbatim reporting of the proceedings of Lok Sabha and bound volumes of Papers Laid on the Table are maintained in the Section. The synopsis of the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are also maintained. All these documents have been stacked in Basement I & Basement II of 'G' block of Parliament Library Building.

It is for the information of Members that Lok Sabha Debates have been digitized and can be accessed by visiting <https://eparlib.nic.in/>.

**84. Administrative and Preservation Section**— The Administrative and Preservation Section of the Library Division deals with the general administration of the Library, maintenance and preservation of Library holdings, grant of Library facilities to Research Scholars (Indian and foreign) and personal staff of Members of Parliament, stock verification, binding of publications, training of staff and the acquisition of all Library equipments.

**85. Acts and Bills Section**— The Acts and Bills Section, located at Room No. FB- 60 in 'I' Block of the Parliament Library Building, preserves and maintains the record of all the Central Government and State Government Acts and Ordinances, Government and Private Members' Bills, Central and State Government Rules, Joint/Select

Committee Reports, Constitution of India, Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules) 1961, Foreign Acts of selected countries [as and when received], etc., for reference and use by Members of Parliament, researchers and other users. The Section carries out corrections regularly in five copies of Constitution of India, Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules) 1961 and Central Acts as amended from time to time so as to keep them up-to-date. Reports of the Joint/Select Committees (constituted from time to time to review Bills) as presented to the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha (available since 1921) are maintained. Copies of all the Central Acts since 1836 are preserved and maintained chronologically. The volumes of India Code, updated copies of Central Acts, and Ordinances promulgated by the President of India, received from the Ministry of Law and Justice are also maintained. Five copies of the Central Acts (loose) as amended upto-date are maintained by the Section. The Rules, Regulations and Notifications of the Government of India laid on the Table of House, under the Central Acts, are procured from the Table Office and maintained in the Section.

**86. Reprography Service—** The Reprography Service set up in 1975 caters to the urgent official photocopying needs of the Members of Parliament, Officers and Branches of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and media persons accredited to Lok Sabha Press Gallery to cover the proceedings of the House. The Service also provides facilities for photocopying and computerized typing of personal correspondence/documents to Members of Parliament on payment basis in Room No. 45, Library Ground Floor, Parliament House. Here, MPs and former MPs can get their documents photocopied on a nominal payment of Rs. 1 per copy. English and Hindi typing work can be done on a payment of Rs. 6 per page for single space and Rs. 5 per page for double space. Additional copies of the typed documents are charged @ Re. 1 per page. Another unit of Reprography Service located in G-037, Parliament Library Building also provides photocopying facilities on payment basis.

**87. Publication Unit—** The Publication Unit was set up in August 1989 to deal with all matters relating to the publications brought out by the LARRDI Service.

The Publication Unit acts as a repository for Lok Sabha Publications.

The work of the following areas performed by the Publication Unit:

- Maintenance of stock of publication brought out by LARRDIS.

- Updating/revision of booklets on National Leaders/Former Speakers whose portraits adorn the Central Hall.
- Liaisoning with concerned sections of the LARRDIS, Printing Branch, Rota Print, Tr. (P) Branch.
- Sending the soft copy of the printed profiles to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Members through Member's e-Portal/e-mail.

#### **88. Children Corner**

A Children's Corner was inaugurated on 21st August, 2007 in Room No. G-131 of the Parliament Library Building during the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. It aims at inculcating the reading habit amongst children between 8-17 years of age, particularly those of under-privileged/marginalized sections of the society by providing them easy access to the vast resources of Parliament Library.

The Corner, which remains open from 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. on all working days, offers children a warm, colourful and peaceful atmosphere to concentrate on their studies so that to improve their skills. The documents/CDs/DVDs available in the Corner are for consultation/use in the Library only and are not issued.

Membership of the Children's Corner is open to:

Children/grand-children of Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament who have obtained membership of the Parliament Library.

Children of the permanent employees of the Secretariats of Parliament and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Children of the journalists accredited to the Press Gallery of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Children sponsored by the registered NGOs (and authorised by the Director, Parliament Library).

Children sponsored by recognized schools.

Children recommended by sitting Members of Parliament.

Membership is initially given for a period of 6 months on submission of prescribed form with requisite documents and is renewable on a half yearly basis.

Special events like essay writing competitions, drawing competitions, elocution competitions are organized to make the Corner a lively and interactive hub of activity, wherein small groups of children

from recognized schools and registered NGOs participate along with the children having membership of the Children's Corner. Award functions are held twice a year to give away prizes to the winners.

**89. Microfilming Unit.**—Micrographic/Microfilming is an indispensable part of information technology for better management of Library and Information Services all over the world. It has long been an established method for preservation of rare and deteriorating documents. Scientific estimate indicates that the normal life expectancy of the microfilm, with careful handling and storage, is 500 years (approx.) as compared to a short life span of digital media. Microfilming is a legally accepted substitute for the original. In addition, it is protected against viruses and worms and cannot be manipulated by the hackers. It also has advantage over digital media in terms of capture cost, media life, technological obsolescence and image quality.

For better preservation and future use of the valuable documents/collections of Parliament and its Library, viz., Parliamentary Debates, Papers Laid on the Table, Acts and Bills, Committee Reports, Private Papers, Rare Books and Documents, Newspapers (bound volumes), Press Clippings, Documents of Parliamentary Archives and other documents as decided from time to time by the Secretariat, the Microfilming Unit was set up in 1987 as an integral part of LARRDIS, Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Unit is housed in the Parliament Library Building. Microfilms of documents are easily accessible to the Members of Parliament, Research Scholars and others for their use. The following publications/documents have been microfilmed by the Unit for reference and use of the members.

*Legislative Debates/Proceeding, etc.*

1. Indian Legislative Council Debates : 02.01.1858 to 16.9.1920
2. Central Legislative Assembly Debates : 3.02.1921 to 12.04.1947
3. Council of States Debates : 3.02.1921 to 19.05.1954
4. Constituent Assembly Debates : 17.11.1947 to 24.12.1949  
(Legislative)
5. Constituent Assembly Debates : 9.12.1946 to 24.01.1950  
[(Draft making) (Hindi)]
6. Constituent Assembly Debates : 9.12.1946 to 24.01.1950  
[(Draft making) (English)]
7. Parliamentary Debates (Provisional : 28.01.1950 to 13.05.1954  
Parliament and House of the People)
8. Lok Sabha Debates (Original Version) : 14.05.1954 to 27.08.1984
9. Lok Sabha Debates (Hindi) : 15.01.1985 to 6.02.2009  
(Translated Version)

10. Lok Sabha Debates (English) : 15.01.1985 to 04.08.2009  
(Translated Version)
11. Rajya Sabha Debates (Hindi) : 15.02.1956 to 02.06.1995  
(Translated Version)
12. Rajya Sabha Debates (English) : 23.08.1954 to 25.03.2011  
(Original Version)
13. Indexes of following Debates:
- (A) *Lok Sabha Debates:*
- (i) 1952 to 1955
- (ii) 1956 to 1958 (11.08.1958 to 27.09.1958 A to R)
- (iii) 1959 to 1961
- (iv) 06.08.1962 to 07.09.1962
- (v) 08.11.1962 to 18.06.1966
- (vi) 25.07.1966 to 30.08.1968, 11.11.1968 to 20.12.1968 (Part-I)
- (vii) 11.11.1968 to 20.12.1968 (Part-II), 17.02.1969 to 04.09.1970,  
09.11.1970 to 18.12.1970 (Part-I), 09.11.1970 to 18.12.1970  
(Part-II)
- (viii) 19.03.1971 to 16.05.1973, 23.07.1973 to 06.02.1976,  
08.03.1976 to 23.12.1978
- (ix) 19.02.1979 to 18.05.1979 (Part-I A to T), 19.02.1979 to  
18.05.1979 (Part-I T to Z), 24.12.1981
- (x) 18.02.1982 to 27.08.1984
- (xi) 15.01.1985 to 12.05.1987
- (B) *Rajya Sabha Debates and Council of States Debates (Indexes):*
- (i) 1921 to 14.09.1957
- (ii) 8.11.1957 to 11.04.1967
- (iii) 22.05.1967 to 23.12.1972
- (iv) 1973 to 31.08.1978 (Part-I Subject Index)
- (v) 17.07.1978 to 31.08.1978 (Name Index)
- (vi) 20.11.1978 to 25.03.1983
14. *Parliamentary Committees (Lok Sabha)*
- (i) Public Accounts Committee : 1st to 10th Lok Sabha  
(Upto 31st Report)
- (ii) Estimates Committee : 1st to 10th Lok Sabha  
(Upto 18th Report)
- (iii) Public Undertakings Committee\* : 3rd to 10th Lok Sabha  
(Upto 32nd Report)

\* Public Undertakings Committee was initially constituted on 1 May, 1964 in 3rd Lok Sabha.

- (iv) Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs<sup>#</sup> : 4th to 10th Lok Sabha (Upto 37th Report)
- (v) Committee on Subordinate Legislation : 1st to 8th Lok Sabha (Upto 21st Report)
- (vi) Committee on Government Assurances : 1st to 8th Lok Sabha (Upto 12th Report)
- (vii) Committee on Petitions : 1st to 10th Lok Sabha (Upto 17th Report)
- (viii) Railway Convention Committee : 1943 to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 3rd Report)
- (ix) Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs : 1954 to 1989
- (x) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table<sup>@</sup> : 5th to 10th Lok Sabha (Upto 12th Report)
- (xi) Committee on Empowerment of Women<sup>&</sup> : 12th to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 3rd Report)

15. Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committees (Lok Sabha)

- (i) Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals<sup>§</sup> : 10th to 12th Lok Sabha (Upto 8th Report)
- (ii) Committee on Defence<sup>§</sup> : 10th to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 4th Report)
- (iii) Committee on External Affairs<sup>§</sup> (English) : 10th to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 23rd Report)
- (iv) Committee on External Affairs<sup>§</sup> (Hindi) : 10th to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 23rd Report)
- (v) Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution<sup>§</sup> : 10th to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 8th Report)
- (vi) Committee on Agriculture<sup>§</sup> (English) : 10th to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 30th Report)
- (vii) Committee on Agriculture\* (Hindi) : 10th to 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 30th Report)
- (viii) Committee on Water Resources<sup>^</sup> : 14th Lok Sabha (Upto 5th Report)

<sup>#</sup> Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs was initially constituted in November, 1968 in 4th Lok Sabha.

<sup>@</sup> Committee on Papers Laid on the Table was initially constituted on 1 June, 1975 in 5th Lok Sabha.

<sup>&</sup> Committee on Empowerment of Women was initially constituted on 29 April, 1997 in 11th Lok Sabha.

<sup>§</sup> Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals; Defence; External Affairs and FCS & PD were initially constituted on 8 April 1993 in 10th Lok Sabha.

\* Committee on Agriculture, was initially constituted on 8 April, 1993 in 10th Lok Sabha.

<sup>^</sup> Committee on Water Resources was initially constituted on 5th August, 2007 in 14th Lok Sabha.

16. *Constitution of India (Calligraphed copy of the original)*  
(English and Hindi)
17. *Presiding Officers Conference* : 1921—20.03.2005  
(Agenda, Proceedings, Resolutions,  
Minutes)
18. *Papers Laid on the Table of the House* : 1980-1986  
(Lok Sabha) (LT No. 1/80 to 2308/86)
19. *O&M's Records:*
  - (i) *Instructional Orders* : No. 2 to 1193
  - (ii) *Annual Administrative Reports* : 1960 to 2002
20. *Library Records:*
  - (a) Accession Register (purchase of : Upto Acc. No. 1,45,230  
books) of Acquisition Section,  
LARRDIS
  - (b) Accession Register (Copyright) : Upto Acc. No. 52,080  
of Acquisition Section,  
LARRDIS
  - (c) *Bills:*
    - (i) Official Bills introduced in : 1921 to 1952  
Central Legislative Assembly
    - (ii) Government Bills : 1953 to 1992  
introduced in House of  
People/Lok Sabha
    - (iii) Government Bills : 1953 to 1993  
introduced in Council of  
States/Rajya Sabha
21. *Rare Books* : 1272\*
22. *Decisions from the Chair* : 1921 to March 1996
23. *Observations from the Chair* : 1950 to March 1996
24. *Directions by the Speaker* : 1st to 4th Edition
25. *Historical Documents*
  - (i) Indian Round Table Conference Proceedings: (1930-1932)
  - (ii) Constituent Assembly of India; Constitutional Precedents 1947
  - (iii) Indian Statutory Commission: Memoranda (1930)
  - (iv) Sardar Patel's Correspondence (1945-1950) (Vols. I to X)
  - (v) Indian Historical Records Commission—Proceedings (1920-1960)
  - (vi) Partition Proceedings—Expert Committee No. I (1947-1949) (2 Vols.)

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\* All the books identified as rare books by the Parliament Library have been Microfilmed.

- (vii) Indian Record Series—Fort William-India House Correspondence:  
Vols. II to IV and other contemporary papers and Vols. VI to XXI

26. Publications, etc.

- (i) Journal of Parliamentary Information : April 1955 to December  
2007
- (ii) Parliament of India (Souvenir) : 1st to 10th Lok Sabha
- (iii) Who's Who, Lok Sabha (Hindi) : 1967-1999
- (iv) Who's Who, Lok Sabha (English) : 1950-1999
- (v) Who's Who, Rajya Sabha (Hindi) : 1970, 1972 & 1974
- (vi) Who's Who, Rajya Sabha (English) : 1952-2000
- (vii) Rajya Sabha Members' Biographical : 1952-1990  
Sketches
- (viii) Report of Indian Parliamentary : 1950-1998  
Group

27. Parliamentary Museum & Archives Collections

- (i) Private Papers of Shri G.V. Mavalankar : 200 pages
- (ii) Private Papers of Prof. N.G. Ranga : 4919 pages
- (iii) Private Papers of Shri Jwala Prasad Jyotishi : 742 pages

**90. Computerised Information System.—** In a parliamentary system, the representatives of the people need objective, factual and timely information. In view of this, the Parliament of India has taken significant steps in developing Information Technology (IT) to assist parliamentarians in the effective discharge of their duties. The Parliament Library made a modest beginning towards automation in December 1985 when a Computer Centre for managing the Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS) was set up. Later, an Expert Committee was set up in 1991 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha to identify relevant areas for introduction of IT and to suggest an integrated scheme for implementing the same. After considering the report of the Expert Committee, the work of automation was entrusted to the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Computer Maintenance Corporation Ltd. (CMC). NIC was made responsible for introduction of IT in Questions, Legislative procedures, Administration, office automation and Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS). CMC was assigned the job of automating the Reporters' and Committee Branches. CMC was also assigned the work of maintenance of the hardware.

Over the years, the Computer Centre has played a key role in the modernization and computerization not only of the Parliament Library but also of the entire Lok Sabha Secretariat. It has also been providing necessary technological support for managing different activities of the Secretariat and to meet the information requirements of Members of Parliament. Keeping pace with the continuous growth in the requirements of members, and the rapid development in the field of information technology, almost all the activities of the Lok Sabha Secretariat have since been computerized.

### ***Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS)***

A large number of index-based databases of information generated within the Parliament were initially developed by PARLIS to make available non-partisan, objective and authentic information and authoritative data on a continuous and regular basis to the parliamentarians. Later, all the databases were converted into full text databases and were made available on the Parliament of India Home Page.

### ***Parliament of India Home Page***

The Parliament of India Home page was inaugurated by Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, the then President of India, on 15 March, 1996. In a very short period, the Home page containing information generated within the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha has become an important source of information and reference tool about the Constitution of India, history of Indian Parliament, its practices and procedures, profiles and socio-economic background of members and the proceedings of Constituent Assembly, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. The major components of the parliamentary information now available on the Parliament of India Home page are:—

#### **(i) Business of the House**

- List of Business
- Bulletin-Part I
- Bulletin-Part II
- Synopsis of Debates
- Daily Debates
- Debates (with search facility)
- Questions List
- Parliamentary Questions/Answers (with search facility)
- Resume of Work

- Wit & Humour in Parliament

(ii) Members of Parliament

- List of Members (1st to 15th Lok Sabha)
- Biographical Sketches of members (1st to 15th Lok Sabha)
- Members' Home pages Addresses/E-mail Addresses of members
- Handbook for Members
- Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

(iii) Information about Parliamentary Committees and their Reports

(iv) Bills (Govt./Pvt. Members) from 1947 onwards

(v) General Information

- Deputy Speaker's Office
- Panel of Chairpersons
- Library
- BPST
- Parliament Museum
- Lok Sabha TV
- Organization of Lok Sabha Secretariat

The answers to the Lok Sabha Questions received from the Ministries through e-mail are available on the Parliament of India Home page. Subject-wise, member-wise, Ministry-wise and date/Session-wise search is available in Questions. The floor version of the text of Debates in bilingual form is also available on the Home page. Members can access debates by subject/date/Session/year-wise. The debates can also be accessed with combination search of members and subject. The Lok Sabha Debates are telecast live on Lok Sabha Television; live audio and video streaming of Lok Sabha Television is made available through the Home page.

Important speeches of the President of India, addresses to Parliament and to the nation, information relating to former Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Prime Ministers and Council of Ministers are available on the Home page. Links to the Websites of Rajya Sabha (contains information on various parameters as released on the Lok Sabha Home page), Government of India, States and Union territories, Election Commission, Supreme Court and High Courts, and other Parliaments

have been provided under the icon Legislative sites, Judicial/Legal sites and official sites on Lok Sabha Home Page.

In addition, Virtual Tour of Parliament House and Parliament Library, general information about Parliament, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Directions by the Speaker, Government of India Manual on Parliamentary Work and Government Instructions on dealings with MPs are available on the Home Page. Besides, 24-hour Lok Sabha TV webcast, its schedule, important video clippings, etc., are available.

The web page of Lok Sabha is periodically redesigned keeping in view the easy access of information by the users. The data released on the website is organized logically through user-friendly drop-down menus. Navigation of information across the pages is available. Access to this site can be had at <http://www.loksabha.nic.in>.

### ***Computer Facilities and Training for Members of Parliament***

Keeping in view the information requirements of the Members of Parliament, it was felt necessary to provide computer facilities to them at their residences/work places. Accordingly, each member is being provided a fund of Rs. 2 lakh for purchase of Computer Equipment, viz. Laptop, Desktop, Printers, e-Reader Devices, etc., under the scheme of Financial Entitlement, since 2009.

### ***MPs' Home pages***

Each Member of Parliament has a web page which contains bio-data, information about participation in parliamentary proceedings, Questions, Bills, Motions and information pertaining to the development of constituency. Links to members' Home pages are available on the Parliament of India Home page. The members' Home page has been developed and is being maintained by the Software Unit. In case a member desires to post some information on the Home page, the same can be forwarded to the Software Unit.

### ***Training***

Orientation Programmes are organized at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training for the benefit of the MPs/Officials in acquiring knowledge and developing/sharpening their skills in various uses of information technology for parliamentary work. These are conducted by specialized agencies like CMC, NIC and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. A Computer Training Room has been set up in the Parliament Library Building to conduct regular training programmes for Members of Parliament, their staff and officers of Parliament.

### ***Query Booth***

Member's Query Booth in Room No. G-127 in the Parliament Library Building assists MPs for purchase of Computer Equipment under the 'Scheme of Financial Entitlement' and imparting training to familiarize them with the functions of e-Reader devices.

### ***Committee on Provision of Computers to Members and Officers***

A Committee on "Provision of Computers to Members of Parliament, Offices of Political Parties and Officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat" consisting of 15 members is nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha with the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha as Chairperson. The purpose of the Committee is to direct/guide the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the agencies involved in the computerisation of the Members' Project about the latest technological developments. It also frames the policies relating to the procurement, distribution and maintenance of computers.

### ***Scheme of Financial Entitlement to Members of Lok Sabha for purchase of Computer Equipment***

After the constitution of the 15th Lok Sabha, a Financial Scheme was launched in 2009 by the Speaker to facilitate purchase of computer and other peripherals by members. Under the scheme, a member of Lok Sabha elected in the General Election or nominated by the President of India under Article 331 of the Constitution is entitled to purchase computer hardware/software and other peripherals up to Rs. 2,00,000/- and those elected in by-election/nominated by the President for less than three years are entitled to purchase computer items up to Rs. 1,50,000/-. However, purchase of e-Reader device shall be mandatory for a member to avail the above financial entitlement. Maintenance and Insurance charges of the computer hardware procured by the members under the scheme are to be borne by the members themselves. The computer equipment purchased by members under the Scheme shall remain with them. However, they shall have to deposit depreciated cost of the computer equipment as per prevailing Income Tax Rules when they cease to be a member.

### ***Computer Hardware to Political Parties***

As per provision of Computer Equipment (Legislature Party in Lok Sabha and Officers) Rules, 2009, political parties which have been allotted accommodation in Parliament House Complex shall be entitled to one Desktop, one UPS, one Printer and Internet Connection by the Secretariat. Maintenance of the computer hardware shall be provided by the Secretariat. The expenditure on Insurance and

consumable items shall be borne by the political parties. The computer hardware shall be received by the Leader/Chief Whip on behalf of the party. Where a Leader/Chief Whip ceases to be a Leader/Chief Whip or a Member of Lok Sabha, they shall be liable to return the computer equipment to the Secretariat. In case they fail to return the same, they shall be liable to deposit the cost of the computer equipment. Where they fail to deposit the cost of the computer equipment, the same shall be recovered from the amount payable to them by the Secretariat.

### ***Maintenance of Computers***

The work of maintenance of computers in the Secretariat has been entrusted to the CMC Ltd. They have set up a Call Dispatch Centre in Parliament Complex to register the calls received from all officers/Branches. A team of engineers has been deputed by CMC to attend to the complaints. The Call Dispatch Centre also provides telephonic support for users' assistance.

### ***Speaker's Home Page***

The Speaker's Home page was released on 25 January 2002. The Home page contains the profile of the Speaker, Lok Sabha, political and personal achievements, important rulings/decisions, important speeches, information pertaining to the development of their constituency, tours undertaken and photo gallery. Profiles of all the former Speakers are also available in this section. A link to the Speaker's Home page has also been provided in the Parliament of India Home Page.

### ***Intranet and E-mail Services***

To facilitate sharing of data and access to internet, a high speed Local Area Network (LAN) has been laid. LAN of all the three buildings in the Parliament Complex and Reception Offices is connected with one another through Optical Fibre Cables for providing high speed connectivity. The computer connectivity to the outside world, including Internet, is being provided through the Network known as NICNET. The Parliament of India is connected to NICNET at NIC (HQ), CGO Complex, through a 1 GB optical fibre link. The NICNET connects all the Central Ministries/Departments, State capitals, important institutions and all the District Headquarters of the country. There are about 3000 LAN nodes in the Parliament complex. All the users have been provided access to Internet. Also, a dedicated Email Messaging Service with the domain name *sansad.nic.in* is available to all Members of Parliament and Officers/Sections of the Secretariat.

### **Training**

Computer Awareness Programmes are organized periodically by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training for the benefit of members of Parliament and officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat with a view to imparting/developing their computer skills for parliamentary work. These Programmes are conducted by specialized agencies like the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and CMC Ltd. A Computer Lab with state-of-the-art facility is located in the Parliament Library Building where Members of Parliament, their staff and officers of Parliament are given hands-on training.

**91. Media and Public Relations Services.—** The Press and Public Relations (PPR) Wing of the Lok Sabha Secretariat liaises with the print and electronic media and various governmental publicity organizations. It also deals with all matters concerning the Press Gallery of the Lok Sabha (with a seating capacity of 123), including the issue of passes for the Press Gallery and the Central Hall, general entry and car park labels and provision of facilities to correspondents covering the proceedings of the House. Media persons accredited to the Lok Sabha Press Gallery are issued Radio Frequency Tags for a period of one calendar year, which are renewed in the month of January every year. Since the year 2002, a separate section named the Centralized Pass Issue Cell (CPIC) has been issuing the passes on the basis of recommendations forwarded by this Wing.

The facilities provided by the PPR Wing include the supply of parliamentary papers such as List of Business (*i.e.* daily agenda), Committee reports, Papers Laid on the Table of the House, etc., to all correspondents. Photocopying of select pages and fax facilities are also available to media persons, free of cost, on request. Three well-furnished Press Rooms have been provided to media representatives in Parliament House near the Lok Sabha Press Gallery. The facility of simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings of Parliament is also available to the correspondents in the Press Gallery. Large screen television sets have been placed in the Press Gallery as well as in the three Press Rooms to enable journalists to watch the proceedings of both Houses which are telecast live by the Lok Sabha Television (LSTV) and Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV).

A separate Work Station has been provided for media persons with 10 computers with internet connection, one TV set and a telephone in the Parliament Library Building to enable them to file their stories on parliamentary proceedings, events and activities.

Canteen facilities are extended to media persons at Room Nos. 54 and 73 in Parliament House, and Room No. G-142, Parliament Library Building.

Admission of Press correspondents to the Lok Sabha Press Gallery is regulated as per the recommendations given by the Press Advisory Committee, which is constituted by the Speaker of Lok Sabha every year from amongst senior media persons. The PPR Wing provides the secretarial assistance to the Committee and organizes its meetings.

Press Releases on all matters relating to various Sessions of the Lok Sabha and meetings of Parliamentary Committees, Parliamentary Conferences, visits of foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India and of Indian Parliamentary Delegations to other countries and national and international parliamentary functions taking place in Parliament complex are issued by the PPR Wing. Special arrangements are made for wider coverage of important Parliamentary Conferences by setting up Media Centers catering to the needs of the print and the electronic media. All Press Conferences of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees and Secretary-General of Lok Sabha are also arranged by the PPR Wing.

For easy identification of a member in the House by the Speaker, a Photo Chart showing members' photographs, their names, constituencies and Division Numbers is prepared by this Wing and placed on the Table of the Speaker in the Lok Sabha Chamber. Copies of the Chart are also provided in the Chambers of the Speaker, Secretary-General, etc. The Chart is updated/revised as and when Division Numbers of members are revised.

With the objective of wider dissemination of knowledge about the working of parliamentary institutions, handy Information Folders on important parliamentary activities and various aspects of parliamentary practices and procedures are brought out and distributed to Members of Parliament, media persons, visiting dignitaries from India and abroad and others by the Wing.

*Research Fellowships* .—*Research Fellowships* for writing books—three in Hindi and two in English, and Fellowships for writing Monographs—three in Hindi and two in English—every year have been instituted by the Lok Sabha Secretariat with a view to promoting original studies on matters of parliamentary interest. A Fellowship Committee is appointed by the Speaker for this purpose. The Committee is assisted in its work by the PPR Wing.

This Wing sets up a temporary studio in Parliament House for taking photographs of members of Lok Sabha for inclusion in the 'Who's Who' of Lok Sabha, Photo Chart and for use by various branches/agencies.

*Teleprinter Service:* —In order to keep pace with the latest developments in the country and abroad, English and Hindi teleprinters of national news agencies have been installed in Parliament House and Parliament Library Building.

*Lok Sabha Calendar.*—A Lok Sabha Calendar is brought out by this Wing for distribution among members of Parliament, Presiding Officers of Legislatures, dignitaries, media persons and officials of the Secretariat.

**92. Audio-Visual Unit.** — As part of modernisation of Library and Information Services, an Audio-Visual Unit was set up in 1992 for keeping/viewing video/audio records of the Lok Sabha Debates; proceedings of National and International Parliamentary Conferences/seminars; Parliamentary films and language learning courses for Members of Parliament, visiting dignitaries, media persons, Government officials, Research Scholars of recognized institutions/Universities, film producers and other interested persons. The Unit is now functioning in Room No. G-140, PLB. It also has a separate viewing room for Members of Parliament and an editing room.

The Unit is looking after the work of selection and collection of multimedia material, accession, classification and preservation of the cassettes/DVDs/VCDs of parliamentary proceedings of both the Houses since 1992 and important parliamentary functions/events like conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops and telefilms on different aspects of parliamentary practices and procedures.

The Audio-Visual Unit has also acquired Language Learning Courses in various Indian and foreign languages and has also added to its holdings audio cassettes pertaining to classical and instrumental music and patriotic songs for the use of Members of Parliament and for use at various parliamentary functions. The following Language Learning Courses (audio and video cassettes) are available for listening/viewing in the Viewing Room:

***Audio-Cassettes***

- (i) Language learning courses in Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu through English;
- (ii) Hindi language learning course through commentaries in Assamese, Bengali, English, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu;
- (iii) Language learning courses in 23 foreign languages, viz. Arabic, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese,

Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish and Swedish through English;

- (iv) Language learning courses for learning Hindi language through English; and
- (v) Language learning courses for learning English language through Hindi.

### **Video-Cassettes**

Language Learning Courses in four foreign languages, viz. French, German, Italian and Spanish through English.

The Unit is equipped with facilities for viewing DVC Pro and VHS Cassettes and dubbing of speeches of members, LSTV programmes and other parliamentary events into VHS Cassettes/VCDs/DVDs for being supplied to Members of Parliament and others on payment basis as decided from time to time.

**93. Telecasting Unit.** — The Unit coordinates with Doordarshan/ All India Radio and other official agencies for the telecast/broadcast of important parliamentary proceedings (*e.g.* President's Address, General Budget, Railway Budget, Confidence/ No-Confidence Motion, etc.) and important parliamentary functions held in the Parliament precincts and elsewhere. It makes all necessary arrangements for effective and uninterrupted telecast/broadcast by providing infrastructural and other assistance to the concerned agencies. The Unit liaises with official/private agencies for transferring the proceedings from U-matic/Betacam tapes to DVC Pro cassettes and from U-matic/Betacam cassettes to Video CDs/DVDs.

As an extension of telefilming and televising of parliamentary proceedings, video films were prepared on different parliamentary practices and procedures and related parliamentary topics for the use of new Members of Parliament and State Legislatures.

Parliamentary films also facilitate in educating students, media persons and others about various facets of the functioning of the Parliament. Six Parliamentary films which have been prepared so far are:

- (i) Private Members' Bills;
- (ii) Parliamentary Questions;
- (iii) Parliamentary Etiquette and Manners;
- (iv) Financial Committees;
- (v) Enriching the Debates in Legislatures; and

(vi) How to be an Effective Parliamentarian?

*Two films viz. 'Parliamentary Etiquette and Manners' and 'How to be an Effective Parliamentarian'? were also dubbed in Russian.*

**94. Lok Sabha Television Satellite Channel (LSTV) .—** The Speaker in consultation with the leaders of political parties in Lok Sabha, took the historic decision in August, 2005 to start a 24 hour television channel of Lok Sabha, independent of *Doordarshan*, that would be carried by cable operators all over the country. On 24 July, 2006, with the commencement of the Monsoon Session, Lok Sabha Television (LSTV) began continuous 24-hour broadcast. The Channel is also available throughout the country on the *Doordarshan* DTH platform.

The Channel is a unique platform for providing citizens unprecedented access to the working of the country's parliamentary democracy. It can be seen as a technological extension of the Visitors Gallery of the Lok Sabha to bring the Parliament closer to the people. The Lok Sabha TV Channel is a unique Channel as it is owned and operated by media profession engaged on contract basis by the Secretariat of the House of the People.

LSTV carries not only the live telecast of the proceedings of the Lok Sabha but also features various informative, interactive and substantial value-added programmes of general public interest and on issues relating to democracy, governance, social, economic, constitutional and of citizens concerns. Besides, award-winning films in Hindi and other Indian languages produced/supplied by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the documentaries provided by Films Division and the Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT) are also showcased.

As part of setting up the Lok Sabha Television Channel, a studio equipped with modern recording and telecasting facilities was set up in the first basement, Parliament Library Building. The studio was initially set up by *Doordarshan* and later on handed over to Lok Sabha Television. Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), a Public Sector Undertaking in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was assigned the job of setting up of infrastructure facilities for LSTV. Accordingly, the old robotic cameras in the Parliament Chamber were replaced and ten new robotic cameras were installed in strategic locations for better visibility of the proceedings. A second studio with High Definition (HD) equipment and a Transmission room were set up to further facilitate the recording and telecasting of LSTV proceedings. The second studio is a sophisticated studio with high definition cameras which are robotically

controlled and makes it possible for invited audience programmes, dance and music programmes and other kinds of programmes to be filmed and recorded or broadcast live. An Earth Station has been installed for LSTV Channel so that the Channel can be directly uplinked with the satellite. With the installation of the Earth Station, the Channel becomes first of its kind, *i.e.* the first Parliamentary Channel which has its own earth station. The Lok Sabha Proceedings are recorded in the Production Control Room of the Channel in Room No. 50, Parliament House. The live proceedings of the House are received in the Transmission Room through optical fibre connectivity from where they are transmitted.

**95. The Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA).—** The Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) was conceived in 1976 in LARRDI Service to preserve the authentic and up-to-date pictorial record pertaining to the history of Parliament of India, its activities and contributions of eminent personalities, etc. A blueprint to this effect was approved by the General Purposes Committee in 1984 and the Committee recommended in 1987 that the Parliamentary Museum and Archives, under the supervision of a Director, shall have the responsibility for acquisition, organizing, designing and exhibition or display of the collections. The Committee recommended the posting of professional, technical, secretarial and maintenance staff. The Parliamentary Museum and Archives was inaugurated by the then Speaker, Shri Rabi Ray in 1989.

As originally mandated Parliamentary Museum and Archives Branch looks after acquisition, collection accessioning, maintenance and preservation of the objects, arte-facts and materials pertaining to the Parliament and Parliamentary Institutions in India and even abroad. These include rare objects, relics, models of Indian States/Union Territories Legislature buildings and foreign Parliament buildings, art works, paintings/portraits, photographs (including CDs/DVDs), gifts (received from Hon'ble Speaker Office), mementoes/souvenirs, antiques such as old/historical furniture, pens, writing pads, wigs/dresses of Parliamentary officers, commemorative stamps and coins, Official records, manuscripts and private papers of eminent parliamentarians, works pertaining to the origin, growth, structure and functioning of parliamentary institutions in India and their - predecessor institutions/bodies, etc. It also serves as the nodal Branch to supply photographs on demand and setting up of Parliamentary Exhibitions on important occasions. Some of the gifts received from Hon'ble Speaker Office are kept in the Parliament Museum for display.

At present the Parliamentary Museum and Archives Branch has three distinct Units *viz.* (i) Documentary Archives Unit; (ii) Photographs

and Photo Archives Unit; and (iii) Parliamentary Exhibition, Art objects and Models Unit.

**(i) *Documentary Archives Unit (documents, books and records, etc.)***

Documentary Archives Unit mainly concerns itself with the acquisition, storage and preservation of precious records, private papers, stamps/First Day Covers on eminent personalities and Parliamentary events issued by the Department of Posts, historical documents and other documentary materials for promotion and dissemination of research and other literary activities in the field of Parliament and democracy. This Section acquires books on Constitutional developments, Parliamentary activities and books on and by former and present Speakers/Deputy Speakers, Lok Sabha, Chairpersons/Deputy Chairpersons, Rajya Sabha, Members of Parliament and Secretaries-General for display at various Exhibitions organized by Parliamentary Museum and Archives. This section also conducts study of the collections with a view to helping research and dissemination of fresh knowledge.

This Unit presently has a collection of documents, private papers, correspondence of 84 eminent Parliamentarians and Freedom Fighters which are connected with their Parliamentary work and related matters and also has 729 books on Constitution, Parliamentary activities, Parliamentarians (on and by the Members of Parliament), Museum, etc. The Section has 1332 Stamps and 164 First Day Covers on Freedom Fighters, distinguished Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Conferences issued by the Department of Posts from time to time also stamps of various countries of the world. The Section also has 316 Government publications/Official Records which include Lok Sabha Secretariat publications, Reports, Year-books of various State Legislatures, Roll of Members of Lok Sabha, Reports of Committees during Constituent Assembly, Memorandums of Understanding signed between Parliament of India and Foreign Parliaments, etc.

**(ii) *Photographs and Photo Archives Unit***

This Section acquires, accessions, classifies, preserves and displays photographs concerning Parliamentary activities including those relating to Indian Parliamentary delegations visiting foreign countries and foreign Parliamentary delegations visiting India. Parliamentary Museum and Archives also serves as the nodal Branch to supply the photographs on demand to various branches of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats, Members of Parliament, Government Agencies etc. The photographic material deteriorates

with the passage of time therefore , to have copies for the posterity, all the accessioned photographs are digitized. Digital copies on DVDs/ Hard Disk format are also maintained of all the accessioned photographs.

The Section maintains an up-to-date pictorial records of the activities of Parliament and of eminent Parliamentarians and its present collection has 19535 photographs of Parliamentary events and eminent dignitaries, and passport size photographs of Members of 1st to 16th Lok Sabha, most of which have been digitized for better preservation and quick retrieval.

***(iii) Parliamentary Exhibitions, Art Objects and Models Unit***

***(a) Exhibition Section***

To coincide with the coming into being of each Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Museum and Archives organizes an Exhibition highlighting the activities and achievements of Parliament with particular reference to the work done by the outgoing Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha during the same period.

Parliamentary Museum and Archives also arranges periodic exhibitions. It is displayed in easy-to-understand form with a glance chart and graphs with data concerning the history organization and operation of Parliamentary institutions.

In organizing the Exhibition, the Parliamentary Museum and Archives takes the assistance of the concerned government agencies, such as the Bureau of Outreach & Communication (BOC) and Photo Division, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, etc. The Exhibition is designed and set up with the help of the Exhibition Wing of Bureau of Outreach & Communication (BOC) and External Publicity Division, Ministry of External Affairs (for setting up exhibition abroad).

***(b) Arts Objects and Models Section***

This Section focuses on items pertaining to History of Parliament of India: gift items (received from Hon'ble Speaker Office); models and photographs of Indian State/Union Territories Legislature Buildings; and Foreign Parliaments Buildings.

The Lok Sabha Television works on the principles of a public broadcaster so as to cater to the masses and to that section of the nation that is interested in the day to day working of Parliament, debates on social issues, discussions on international affairs, current affairs, views of visiting dignitaries, documentaries on culture, common

man issues, etc. In pursuance of these objectives, a very nominal fee is charged from private television networks who show interest to telecast/broadcast the live/recorded proceedings or to use the recorded excerpts/footage of Parliamentary proceedings, by allowing them to use the feed on certain terms and conditions. However, *Doordarshan* is allowed to use all footage free of any charge.

LSTV Channel has a revamped and dynamic Website and its archival videos may be accessed at [www.loksabhatv.nic.in](http://www.loksabhatv.nic.in) LSTV Channel has its own Mobile Application available on both Android and IOS platform. Also the LSTV Channel has large number of followers on its Facebook page, YouTube channel and Twitter handle.

**96. Hi-tech Parliament Museum.**— An ultra-modern, hi-tech and interactive Parliament Museum of international standards, highlighting India's rich democratic heritage, set-up on an area of more than 1,500 square metres on the Ground Floor and the Mezzanine Floor in Hall No. G-118 in the Parliament Library Building, was inaugurated by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the then President of India, on 14 August, 2006. The Museum depicts the continuum of democratic heritage through seven major clusters with the help of walk-through period settings with sound-light-video synchronization, large screen interactive, computer multi-media and immersive visualization with multi-screen panoramic projections, virtual reality and animatronics. The country's democratic heritage has been inscribed in brief in Braille language at different places in the Museum for the benefit of visually challenged visitors.

The Museum has been conceptualized, designed and operationalised by Dr. Saroj Ghose, eminent Museologist and former President of the International Council of Museums in UNESCO, Paris, and retired Director-General of the National Council of Science Museums in India.

A well equipped Conservation Laboratory has been set up to take care of preservation and restoration of important collection of arte-facts in the Parliament Museum. There is also a Resource Centre with a fully computerized textual and visual information bank.

Apart from the general visitors, a large number of school children, high constitutional dignitaries and other eminent personalities visit the Museum. The visitors can enjoy an 'Arm Chair Tour' of the Museum through DVD/CD. On the Mezzanine floor, there is a Souvenir Shop having more than 50 items with Parliament Logo, on sale. An interactive website ([www.parliamentmuseum.org](http://www.parliamentmuseum.org)) on the Parliament Museum provides an opportunity to the viewers for a virtual visit of the Museum.

The Museum is open to the public from 1100 hours to 1700 hours on all weekdays, except Sundays, Mondays (during inter-Session period) and Government holidays. Access to the Museum is from the Reception Office of the Parliament Library Building located at Pandit Pant Marg.