

## CHAPTER VIII

### INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

**98. Constitution and Functions of Indian Parliamentary Group.**—(1) The Indian Parliamentary Group is an autonomous body formed in the year 1949 in pursuance of a motion adopted by the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on 16 August, 1948. The Speaker of Lok Sabha is the *ex-officio* President and Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha and Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha are *ex-officio* Vice-Presidents of the Group. The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha is the *ex-officio* Secretary-General of the Indian Parliamentary Group.

(2) The aims and objects of the Indian Parliamentary Group are:—

- (i) to promote personal contacts between Members of Parliament;
- (ii) to study questions of public importance that are likely to come up before Parliament and arrange Seminars and discussions and Orientation Programmes and bring out publications for the dissemination of information to the Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group;
- (iii) to arrange lectures on political, defence, economic, social and educational problems by Members of Parliament and distinguished persons;
- (iv) to arrange visits to foreign countries with a view to develop contacts with Members of other Parliaments; and
- (v) to function as (a) National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and (b) Main Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in India.

(3) As may be seen from the above, the Indian Parliamentary Group functions as the Branch of two International Parliamentary Organisations—the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The particulars of these organisations as well as the advantages of becoming a member of the Indian Parliamentary Group are given below:—

(i) *Inter-Parliamentary Union*—The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is an international organisation of the Parliaments of sovereign States. Its aim is to work for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institution. The IPU fosters contacts, coordination and the exchange of experience among

Parliaments and Parliamentarians of all member countries and contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions. IPU also expresses its views on all contemporary questions of international importance for necessary effective implementation of parliamentary actions and suggests avenues for improving the working standard and capacity of international institutions.

At present the IPU consists of 178 Parliaments of sovereign nations and 12 Associate members. The IPU holds two Assemblies in a year. The First Assembly is held in the first half of the year *i.e.* in April-May and the Second Session of the IPU Assembly falls in the second half of the year *i.e.* in the month of October/November and each assembly spans for four days.

The main advantages of membership of Indian Parliamentary Group, in so far as it functions as the National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, are as follows:—

- (a) The events provide an opportunity to study and understand contemporary changes/reforms taking place in various countries of the world.
- (b) It helps members of Indian Parliamentary Delegation develop contacts with the Parliamentarians of the member countries of the IPU.

In the recent past, members of India Group have been holding various positions on the IPU bodies namely, office bearers in different Committees of the IPU, Rapporteurs, Chairmen of Drafting Committees etc. and by virtue of the same, the Group has been successful in putting forward effectively the view point of India on various important issues dealt in the IPU meetings.

For further details about IPU and participation of Indian Parliamentary Delegations in the IPU Assembly, the following website may be visited:

[www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org) and <http://164.100.47.194/loksabha/CommonConferenceLinks.aspx?fmane=Conference635612659558450306.htm>

(ii) *Commonwealth Parliamentary Association*—The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an association of about 17000 Commonwealth Parliamentarians spread over 175 National, State, Provincial and Territorial Parliaments. The aims of the Association are to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of

Nations. Its mission is to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance and by building an informed parliamentary community able to deepen the Commonwealth's democratic commitment and to further co-operation among its Parliaments and Legislatures. This mission is achieved through a Strategic Plan which ensures CPA activities continue to meet the changing needs of today's Parliamentarians. The Secretariat of the CPA is in London. The main advantages of membership of the Indian Parliamentary Group insofar as it functions as the Main Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in India, are as follows:—

- (a) *Conference and Seminars:* Membership provides an opportunity for participation in the plenary and regional conferences, seminars, visits and exchanges of delegations.
- (b) *Publications:* All members of the Indian Parliamentary Group to receive, free of charge, 'The Parliamentarian' quarterly published by the CPA Secretariat, London. Members can also contribute Articles for Publication in the Journal.
- (c) *Research Support:* The CPA has the Commonwealth Parliamentary Research Service (CPRS) which provides electronic communication of 185 Parliaments and Legislatures. Members who may need research support may use its service.
- (d) *Introductions:* The CPA Branches readily assist in arranging introductions for members visiting other jurisdictions. A letter from the visiting member's Branch Secretary is usually helpful in this and other contexts.
- (e) *Parliamentary Facilities:* Members visiting other Commonwealth countries are normally accorded Parliamentary courtesies, especially access to debates and local members.
- (f) *Travel Facilities:* Some Branches provide for a designated number of their members annually to undertake study tours of Commonwealth and other countries to compare political and procedural developments. Other Branches arrange *ad hoc* visits.

For further details about CPA, the following website may be visited:

- (1) [www.cpahq.org](http://www.cpahq.org); and
- (2) [www.ipg.nic.in](http://www.ipg.nic.in)

**99. Members visiting abroad.**—(1) When any member of the Group decides to visit abroad, the following information should be given by him to the Lok Sabha Secretariat about two weeks before the date of his departure from India:—

- (i) itinerary with date, time, flight particulars and countries to be visited including transit visits;
- (ii) whether the visit is official or private. In the former case, the exact purpose;
- (iii) the nature of passport held—whether Diplomatic or official or ordinary; and
- (iv) addresses in the countries of visit.

(2) On receipt of the above information, the Lok Sabha Secretariat send intimation to the Secretaries of the National Groups of the IPU and 'Secretaries of the CPA Branches' in the countries of visit requesting them to extend appropriate assistance and courtesies to them.

**100. Non-Official Visits abroad by Members of Parliament.**—

(1) The following guidelines are to be observed by Members in connection with their non-official visits abroad:—

- (i) If any invitation from any foreign source namely, Government of any country, foreign organizations, etc. is received directly by a member, a copy of such invitation letter giving full details of the purpose of the visits and the hospitality to be accepted should be sent.
  - (a) the Ministry of External Affairs for political clearance; and
  - (b) the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs [Foreigners Division (FCRA), NDCC-II Building, Jai Singh Road, Near Jantar Mantar, New Delhi] for accepting any foreign hospitality being offered during visits abroad.
- (ii) On receipt of political clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs and permission from FCRA by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Member concerned shall keep the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha informed, *inter-alia*, of the purpose of the visit and the hospitality proposed to be received.
- (iii) It may kindly be ensured that none of their activities during those visits give an unintended impression that Members are on an official visit on behalf of Parliament.

- (iv) Before accepting the hospitality the members should satisfy themselves about the credentials of the organization/ institution extending the hospitality.

**101. Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.**—An award for outstanding Parliamentarian was instituted by the Indian Parliamentary Group in the year 1995. The First and Second awards for the years 1995 and 1996 were conferred on Shri Chandrashekhar and Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The Third and Fourth awards for the years 1997 and 1998 were conferred on Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri S. Jaipal Reddy respectively. The Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Awards for the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 were conferred on Shri L.K. Advani, Shri Arjun Singh, Shri Jaswant Singh and Dr. Manmohan Singh, respectively. The Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Awards for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 were conferred on Shri Sharad Pawar, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar respectively. The Thirteenth and Fourteenth Awards for the years 2007 and 2008 were conferred on Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and Shri Mohan Singh respectively. Shri Arun Jaitley, Dr. Karan Singh and Shri Sharad Yadav have been selected to receive the Award for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. The Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty third Awards for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 were conferred on Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla, Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shri Dinesh Trivedi and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab respectively.

**102. Parliamentary Friendship Groups.**—To encourage bilateral relations, IPG has decided to constitute Parliamentary Friendship Groups with other countries in the Parliament.

Each Friendship Group shall consists of at least twenty-two sitting Members of Parliament (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha) in proportion to the strength of Parties in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The aims and objectives of the Group will be to maintain political, social and cultural contacts between the two countries and to assist in exchanges of information and experiences on issues relating to Parliamentary activities.

**103. IPG Newsletter.**—An uninterrupted flow of information to Members regarding the activities of the Group is maintained through IPG Newsletter brought out every quarter. The IPG Newsletter is available on the website of IPG *i.e.* ipg@nic.in

## **APPENDIX**

[Vide Paragraph 14(9)]

### **\*GROUNDS OF DISALLOWANCE OF ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

1. It does not relate to a definite matter.
2. It does not relate to a matter urgent enough to warrant interruption of the business of the day.
3. It does not relate to a matter of sufficient public importance.
4. It does not relate to a matter of recent occurrence which has arisen suddenly but relates to a continuing matter.
5. It is not a matter for an adjournment motion. Other opportunities can be availed of to raise the matter.
6. It raises more than one issue.
7. Notice was not given in time *i.e.* by 10.00 hours.
8. It relates to a matter which is likely to be debated in the near future/discussion on which has already been fixed.
9. The matter sought to be raised is covered by amendments to Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
10. A motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers is under discussion.
11. The matter should have been raised at the first opportunity.
12. The matter sought to be raised is mainly based on press reports without being substantiated.
13. It relates to a matter which is sub-judice.
14. An Adjournment Motion cannot be moved merely to obtain information.
15. It relates to a matter of law and order which is a State subject.
16. It relates to calling of assistance of Army by State Government for maintenance of law and order under the provisions of Criminal Procedure Code for which no responsibility of the Central Government is involved.
17. It relates to a State subject.

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\*The grounds mentioned are only typical and not exhaustive.

18. No responsibility of the Central Government is involved.
19. It raises a question of privilege.
20. It seeks to revive discussion on a matter which has already been discussed during the current session.
21. It raises a question which under the Constitution/Rules can only be raised on a distinct substantive motion.
22. Wide questions of policy cannot be discussed on an Adjournment Motion.
23. Conduct of a foreign Government cannot be discussed on an Adjournment Motion.
24. Interpretation of provisions of the Constitution/Rules cannot be the subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion.
25. It raises matter entailing legislation.
26. Fast undertaken by individuals or body of people cannot be the subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion.
27. Service grievances cannot be raised through an Adjournment Motion.
28. Arrest made under the normal process of law cannot be subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion.
29. An Adjournment Motion is not in order where redress of the grievances complained of is available under the existing law.
30. It relates to a day-to-day administrative matter.
31. The matter can be raised during discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry/Finance Bill/Motion of Thanks on President's Address.
32. It relates to an individual case.
33. It relates to frivolous or trivial matter.
34. It relates to the affairs of an autonomous corporation/body.
35. An Adjournment Motion cannot be moved on matters where a Minister exercises discretionary powers conferred upon him by a Statute.
36. An Adjournment Motion cannot be moved when Ministers carry out treaty obligations under International Law.
37. Industrial disputes such as lockouts and strikes of a normal character are not proper matters for Adjournment Motion.

38. Apprehended lockout or threat of strike cannot be raised on an Adjournment Motion.
39. Decisions of the Speaker cannot be the subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion.
40. Action taken by authorities in due administration of law cannot be subject of an Adjournment Motion.
41. Policy continued from day-to-day cannot be the subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion.
42. Demonstrations to get an Act of Parliament modified cannot be the subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion.
43. Unsatisfactory reply given to a question or refusal by Government to answer a question cannot be a matter for an Adjournment Motion.
44. Orders promulgated under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 cannot be the subject-matter of an Adjournment Motion.