

Parliamentary control over public finance-the power to levy or modify taxes and

the voting of supplies and grants-is one of the important checks against the

executive assuming arbitrary powers. No taxes can be levied and no expenditure

can be incurred from the public exchequer without Parliamentary authorization

of the same by law.

Representational Role

Parliament is a body, which represents the people. Its members are drawn from

every part of the country and represent interests.

Parliament acts a forum, where

members from diverse parties and varied interests come together under a common

platform. Here is where consensual politics can happen with dialogue and

interaction taking place face to face.

Also by being a forum, the needs and aspirations of the masses here get expressed.

In the words of Kashyap "Parliament represents the changing...needs of the

people. It is not only a microcosm and a mirror of the people, but also a barometer

of their mood and pulse".

Parliament, as a people's institution and its members, as peoples' representatives,

has always championed the cause of masses. Parliament has all along been a

body, which responds to matters of public interest zealously- raising matters of

public importance in the House. It has culminated to a role of being an ombudsman

of the grievances of the people of the country.

Special Powers of Rajya Sabha

The Constitution has assigned some special powers only to the Rajya Sabha.

Article 249 of the Constitution empowers the Rajya Sabha to make laws on

matters coming under the state list keeping national interest in perspective.

Similarly, under Article 312, the Rajya Sabha is empowered to decide by a

resolution supported by a two-thirds majority about setting up of an All India

Service. The Lok Sabha comes into picture later, after the Rajya Sabha has passed

the laws concerning these.

Thus, we see that the two Houses of Parliament, though constituted differently

and enjoy some powers on an equal/ exclusive basis are nevertheless coordinate

chambers. Both the Houses have equal powers in matters such as in the

impeachment of the President, removal of the Vice-President, Constitutional

amendments, and removal of the judges of the Supreme Court and the High

Court. Besides, Presidential ordinances, proclamation of emergency, and

proclamation of the failure of Constitutional machinery in a state must be placed

before both the Houses.

However, there are certain powers that are in the exclusive domain of each of the

Houses. Whereas the council of ministers enjoys financial powers and owes a

sense of collective responsibility to the lower house, the upper house does enjoy

certain powers, as has been already mentioned in Articles 249 and 312.