

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The lower house, that is, the Lok Sabha has the elected representatives of the

people, who form the executive. The executive has members. The entire executive

is having a Council of Ministers having both the state ministers and Cabinet

ministers. The Cabinet ministers hold different portfolios.⁶

The entire Council of

Ministers is headed by the Prime Minister of the political party that has a majority

of seats in the Parliament. The executive is thereby formed by the ruling party.

The Cabinet continues in powers as long as, it retains majority in the lower

house of the parliament.

There are different stages in the parliamentary procedure relating to passing of

bills (other than money bills) that are discussed, as follows:

1) Introduction: A bill other than money or financial bill may be introduced

in either House of the Parliament and requires passage in both the Houses

before it can be sent for the President's assent. A bill may be introduced

either by a Minister or by a private Member..

2) Motions after introduction: After a bill has been introduced, the Member

in-charge of the bill, may resort to any of the following motions:

That it can be taken into consideration.

That it can be referred to a select committee

That it can be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion.

3) Report by Select Committee: If the bill is referred to a select committee,

then the select committee of the House considers the provisions of the bill.

After consideration, it submits its report to the House. Once the report is

received, the clauses of the bill are open for discussion and amendments are

admissible.

4) Passage in the other house: When a bill is passed in one House, it is sent to

the other House. When the bill is received in the other House, it undergoes

all the stages, as in the originating House subsequent to its introduction.

The House, which receives the bill from another House can take either of

the following courses:

It may reject the bill altogether. In such a case the provision of joint

sitting may be convened by the President.

It may pass the bill with amendments. In this case, the bill will be

returned to the originating House. If the originating House amends the

bill, as per, then the bill is sent to the President for his/her assent. If,

the originating House does not agree to the amendments

made by the

other House and there is a disagreement between the two Houses, the

President summons a joint sitting for resolution

5) President's assent: When a bill has been passed by both the Houses, it is

sent to the President for assent. If the President withholds his assent, there

is an end to the bill. With the President's assent, the bill becomes an Act

w.e.f. the date of assent. The President can also return the bill for

reconsideration by both the Houses. The Parliament may reconsider and as

per, revise the bill or it may not reconsider and can send the bill back to the

President without any changes in the same form, as earlier. Therein, sent for

the second time, the President gives the assent.