

Parliamentary Committees

Increasing their effectiveness

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Importance of Parliamentary Committees

Parliament has the primary responsibility of making laws and holding the government responsible for its actions. As representatives of citizens, MPs pass laws, oversee the working of the government and the efficient allocation of public funds. Parliamentary Committees act as a mechanism that helps in improving the effectiveness of Parliament.

Over the years, responsibilities of the government have increased significantly. Government expenditure and legislation have become technical and complex in nature. While a significant amount of Parliament's work gets done on the floor of the House, it is difficult for Parliament to scrutinise all government activities in the House in a limited time. Thus, Parliamentary Committees were constituted to examine proposed legislation, government policies and expenditure in detail. They also examine petitions from the public, check whether rules framed by the government are in consonance with Acts of Parliament, and help manage the administration of Parliament.

Deliberations in Committees present several advantages. Committees can get inputs from experts and stakeholders on various matters. Their ability to devote more time on each item allows them to examine matters in greater detail. They also help parties reach consensus on various issues.

However, there are several areas where Committees need strengthening. For example, all Bills are not referred to Committees. They are thinly staffed and do not have full-time technical expert support. Some Committees may not seek evidence from experts on important Bills. Further, attendance of MPs in Committee meetings is about 50%, which is lower than the 84% attendance seen during the Parliament sittings.

Types of Parliamentary Committees

There are various types of Parliamentary Committees in India which look at matters such as government expenditure, legislation, government policies and schemes, and administration of Parliament. They can be categorised into Departmentally Related Standing Committees, financial committees, administrative committees, accountability committees, and ad hoc committees.

Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs)

DRSCs were constituted in 1993 to assist Parliament in scrutinising funds allocated to Ministries. They also examine Bills referred to them by Parliament and analyse other relevant policy issues.

There are 24 DRSCs that oversee the working of a Ministry or group of Ministries. They are composed of 31 members: 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. These DRSCs are constituted for a period of one year.

Financial Committees

Parliament regulates government expenditure to ensure that public finances are used efficiently. Such financial oversight is a complex and technical task. Financial committees facilitate this task for Parliament. They are the: Committee on Public Accounts, Committee on Public Undertakings, and Estimates Committee.

The Committee on Public Undertakings and Public Accounts consist of 22 members: 15 from Lok Sabha and seven members from Rajya Sabha. The Estimates Committee is composed entirely of Lok Sabha MPs. It has 30 members who are elected by the House. Members are elected for a period of one year.

Administrative Committees

Both Houses of Parliament also require significant administrative support for their day-to-day functioning. The Houses have set up different Committees, such as the Business Advisory Committee which helps decide the daily agenda of Parliament. Table 1 provides a list of administrative Committees in Parliament.

Table 1: List of administrative Committees and their functions

Committee	Function
Business Advisory Committee	Recommends time to be allocated for the discussion of Bills and other business.
Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Examines all Private Members' Bills after their introduction.
Committee on Government Assurances	Scrutinises the assurances, promises, and undertakings given by Ministers.
Rules Committee	Considers matters of procedure and conduct of business in the House.
Committee of Privileges	Examines questions involving breach of rights, privileges, and immunities enjoyed by MPs.
Committee on Ethics	Oversees the moral and ethical conduct of MPs.
Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	Examines leave applications of MPs.
Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	Examines the composition of other committees and recommends what offices may disqualify a person from becoming an MP.
Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of MPs	Examines salaries and allowances of MPs.
Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Examines measures taken by the government to improve the status of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.
Committee on Empowerment of Women	Recommends measures to improve the status and conditions women.
Library Committee	Advises on the improvement of Parliamentary library.
House Committee	Advises on matters related to residential accommodation of MPs.
General Purposes Committee	Advises on matters concerning the affairs of the House referred to it by the Chairperson.

Sources: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites; PRS.

Accountability Committees

Apart from financial Committees and DRSCs, three other Committees ensure government accountability towards Parliament and citizens. These are the Committee on Government Assurances, the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, and the Committee on Petitions.

Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Committees are appointed by either House or the presiding officers from time-to-time for a specific purpose. They cease to exist when they finish the task assigned to them and submit a report. Some Ad Hoc Committees include: the Railway Convention Committee, and Select Committees formed to examine specific Bills.

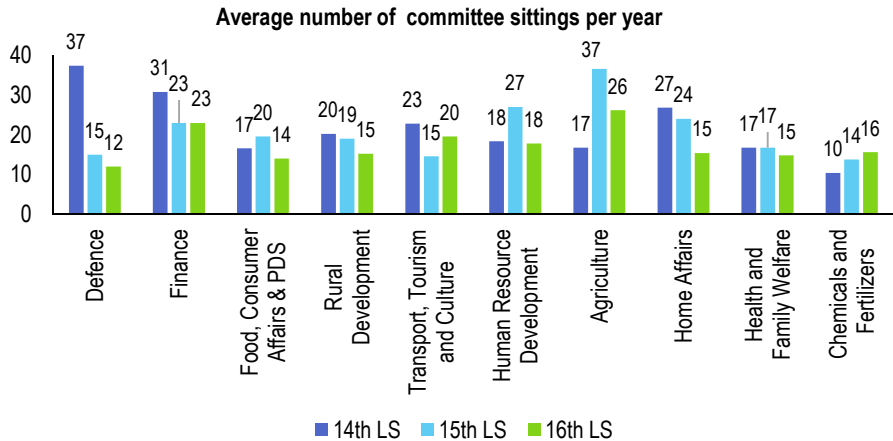
Functioning of Committees

Departmentally Related Standing Committees

Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) meet to examine the expenditure of all Ministries, Bills referred to them, and policies or issues selected by them. These meetings are conducted while Parliament is in session or during inter-session periods.

While it is difficult to analyse the quality of deliberations in these sittings, the number of sittings held by various DRSCs can be used as an indicator to measure the quantity of work done by them. Figure 1 shows the average number of sittings for 10 Committees which examine the largest (by expenditure) Ministries/Departments.

Figure 1: Number of sittings has declined for most Committees



Sources: Study Material on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures, Lok Sabha Secretariat; PRS.

Note that the Committees on Defence, Finance, and Home Affairs have seen a decrease in average number of sittings from the 14th to the 16th Lok Sabha, whereas the Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers has seen an increase.

Examining Demands for Grants

After the Budget is presented, the DRSCs examine the Demands for Grants of all Ministries under its purview. Demands for Grants refer to the detailed estimates of expenditure of each Ministry. DRSCs study allocations to schemes and programmes, spending by the Ministry, and the policy priorities of the Ministry. After this examination, the Committee compiles its recommendations in the form of a Report which is laid in both Houses of Parliament. These recommendations help MPs understand the implications of financial allocations. They also allow for a more informed debate and analysis of Demands for Grants in Lok Sabha.

Table 2 shows the number of days available to MPs to study the reports after they are tabled, and before the relevant Demands are passed. In 2018, the report of the Committee on Agriculture was presented eight days before the Demand was voted upon in the House.

Table 2: Days between report tabled date and voting on demands

Committee	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Defence	-146	12	-139	3	1	-152	2	0	7	1
Finance	-132	8	-138	9	8	-146	5	5	3	5
Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	-150	4	-141	0	0	-152	2	0	0	5
Rural Development	-147	6	-157	1	0	-149	9	1	0	8
Transport, Tourism & Culture	NA	7	NA	-4	-3	NA	1	4	3	8
Human Resource Development	NA	7	NA	0	5	NA	4	6	-1	5
Agriculture	-154	5	-165	8	7	-148	5	1	5	8
Home Affairs	NA	0	NA	2	5	NA	5	6	2	1
Health & Family Welfare	NA	-1	NA	1	4	NA	5	6	0	6
Chemicals & Fertilizers	-145	1	-140	1	0	-140	3	5	0	1

Sources: Statistical Handbook 2019, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites; PRS.

Negative numbers suggest that the report was presented after the Demand for Grants were voted upon. In 2009 and 2014, all reports on the Demands were presented a few months after they were voted in the House. Note that these were election years, and in these years the budget presented by the new government was passed in the month of July. The new DRSCs were not formed by then.

The primary objective of reports on Demands for Grants is to help MPs examine government expenditure better. Therefore, it is necessary for MPs to have sufficient time to study these reports before the discussion in the House. The data suggests that in many cases MPs do not have sufficient time to study these reports.

Waiving off Railways' Dividend payment

Indian Railways used to pay a return on the budgetary support it received from the government every year, known as dividend. The rate of this dividend was determined by the Railways Convention Committee, and was about 5% in 2016-17. In 2015, the Standing Committee on Railways had observed that the system of receiving support from the government and then paying back dividend was counter-productive. It recommended that the payment of dividend can be avoided till the financial health of Railways improves. In September 2016, the requirement to pay dividend to the central government was removed.

Sources: 4th Report on the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Railways, Standing Committee on Railways (2015-16); PRS.

Examining Bills

Once a Bill has been introduced in Parliament, it may be referred to a DRSC for detailed scrutiny. The Bill can be referred to a Committee either by the Speaker of Lok Sabha, or the Chairperson of Rajya Sabha. It is sent to the DRSC that reviews the working of the Ministry under which the Bill is introduced. After concluding its examination, the DRSC lays its report in Parliament. The recommendations of the DRSC on the Bill may also be discussed in the House.

Note that a Bill passed by one House can still be referred to a Committee by the other House. For instance, in the 16th Lok Sabha, the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016, and the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013 were referred to a DRSC as well as a Select Committee.

DRSCs were given the responsibility of scrutinising Bills because Parliament does not have the time and expertise to analyse each Bill in detail, on the floor of the House. However, the trend shows that fewer Bills are being referred to Committees as compared to previous Lok Sabha (see Table 3).

Examining the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture (2017) had examined the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016. The Bill addressed issues around third party insurance, regulation of taxi aggregators, and road safety. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways accepted various recommendations made by the Committee such as: (i) removing the cap on liability for third party insurance, (ii) giving states the option to regulate taxi aggregators, and (iii) setting up a National Road Safety Board to advise the central and state governments on issues around road safety.

Sources: Report on the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016, Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture; PRS.

Table 3: Fewer Bills referred to DRSCs in 16th Lok Sabha

Committee	15 th Lok Sabha			16 th Lok Sabha		
	Bills introduced	Referred to DRSC	% referred	Bills introduced	Referred to DRSC	% referred
Agriculture	5	5	100%	3	2	67%
Information Technology	5	4	80%	3	1	33%
Defence	1	1	100%	0	0	-
Energy	2	0	0%	1	1	100%
External Affairs	4	3	75%	1	1	100%
Finance	38	27	71%	44	5	11%
Food, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution	8	5	63%	5	1	20%
Labour	11	7	64%	11	2	18%
Petroleum & Natural Gas	1	1	100%	1	0	0%
Railways	0	0	-	1	1	100%
Urban Development	10	4	40%	5	0	0%
Water Resources	1	1	100%	2	1	50%
Chemicals & Fertilizers	1	1	100%	0	0	-
Rural Development	5	3	60%	2	0	0%
Coal & Steel	3	2	67%	4	0	0%
Social Justice & Empowerment	12	7	58%	14	2	14%
Commerce	4	2	50%	2	0	0%
Home Affairs	24	15	63%	8	1	13%
Human Resource Development	26	24	92%	20	3	15%
Industry	0	0	-	3	2	67%
Science and Technology, Environment & Forests	8	8	100%	5	1	20%
Transport, Tourism & Culture	9	7	78%	14	6	43%
Health and Family Welfare	16	10	63%	10	6	60%
Personnel, Law & Justice	34	20	59%	31	3	10%
Total	228	157	69%	190	39	21%

Sources: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Bulletins; PRS. Note: Table does not include Bills referred to Select Committees.

Examination of Issues

Every year, DRSCs select subjects for detailed examination. These subjects could be on existing or potential issues that could come up in the sectors that the DRSC looks at, or implementation of programmes by the relevant Ministry. For example, some of the subjects identified for examination by DRSCs constituted for 2019-20 include: state of the Indian economy, implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, and digital payment and online security measures for data protection.

Committee report on Chinese-Indian foreign relations

In 2018, the Committee on External Affairs examined relations between India and China. It noted the ambivalent nature of Chinese-Indian relations and highlighted the importance of bilateral relations between the countries. The Committee referred to the Doklam incident of June 2017, where a construction unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army tried to construct a road in Doklam. It noted that the actions of the Chinese army contravened multiple agreements signed between Bhutan and China. It noted that the incident was a severe security threat and urged the Ministry to ensure dismantling of the structure built by the Chinese army in Doklam. It also suggested that infrastructure near the border be improved to ensure rapid response of the Indian military in case of other security threats.

Sources: Report on Sino-India Relations including Doklam, Border Situation and Cooperation in International Organisations, Standing Committee on External Affairs; PRS.

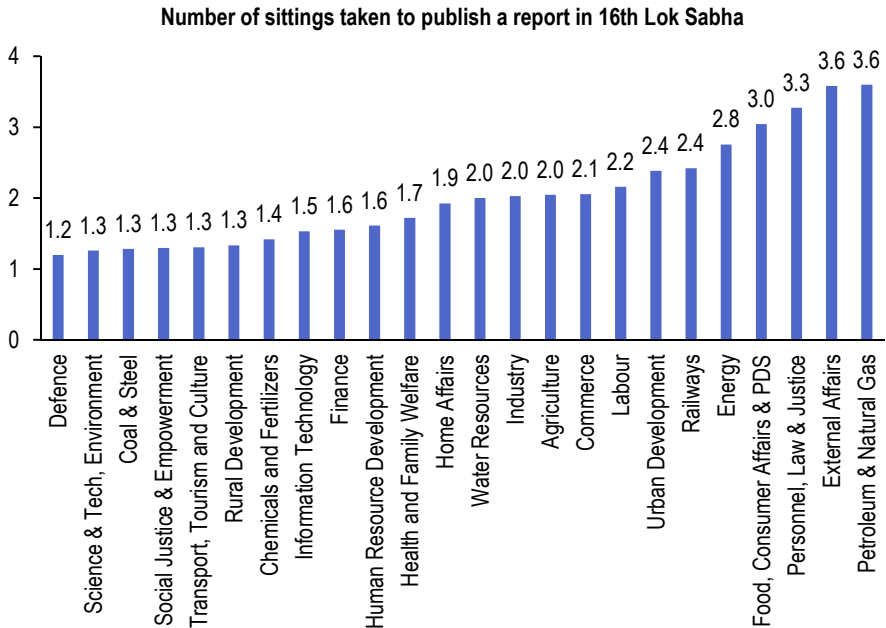
Reports submitted by DRSCs

After examining Bills, Demands for Grants, and issues, DRSCs prepare reports and table them in Parliament. Subsequently, the DRSCs also submit Action Taken Reports which show the recommendations accepted by the government, and the progress made on them. The acceptance rate varies across Committees.

During the 16th Lok Sabha, 2,038 sittings were held by DRSCs and they submitted 1,111 reports. On average, DRSCs published one report in 1.8 sittings. Average sittings taken to publish one report vary across

DRSCs. However, it is difficult to evaluate quality of these deliberations without analysing each report.

Figure 2: Defence Committee took 1.2 sittings per report



Sources: Study Material on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures, Lok Sabha Secretariat; PRS.

Financial Committees

The three Financial Committees are responsible for scrutinising various aspects of government finances and expenditure.

Committee on Public Accounts

The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) analyses accounts on funds sanctioned by Parliament for government expenditure. It also examines other accounts laid before Parliament such as reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). The CAG audits government

expenditure to ensure that public funds are being used efficiently and for their intended purposes. In any given financial year, the CAG tables about 40 audit reports in Parliament. Since it is difficult and time-consuming for Parliament to discuss each of these reports, the PAC is entrusted with examining the findings of the CAG audit reports.

Land management by the Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence is the largest holder of government land. The CAG has scrutinised land management by the Ministry and observed unsatisfactory management of land, encroachment of land by other government departments, and a loss of approximately Rs 838 crore in revenue due to non-termination of leases. In this context, the PAC examined these findings. The PAC noted that defence land had been occupied without authorisation by Ministry of Railways and Airport Authority of India, in Chennai and Pune respectively. It recommended that the land be returned to the Ministry of Defence and financial losses due to such unauthorised occupation be paid by the government bodies to the Ministry of Defence.

Sources: Report on Improper Management of Defense Land, Committee on Public Accounts; PRS.

The Committee may also inquire into irregularities in public finance which have been brought to the notice of the government but have not been audited yet. To examine these irregularities, the Committee may appoint a sub-committee. Sub-committees are also formed to examine the implementation of recommendations by the government.

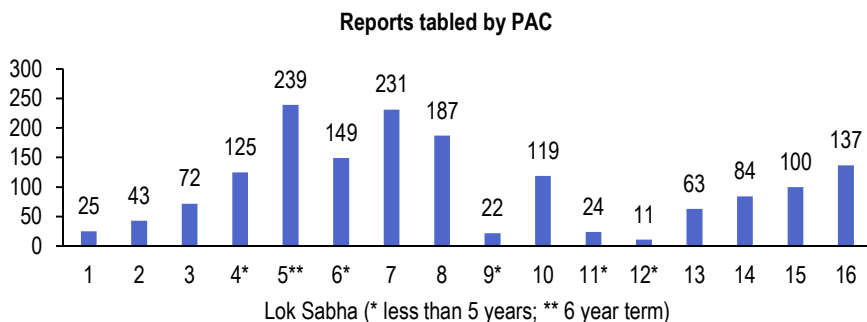
PAC report on the Commonwealth Games, 2010

India hosted the 19th Commonwealth Games in 2010. CAG had submitted an audit report on the Games after its completion. The PAC examined the CAG report, and submitted a report in 2016-17. The Committee noted that: (i) crucial delays were involved in the planning process, (ii) Chairman of the organisation committee was appointed in an opaque manner, and (iii) corrupt practices were followed in awarding several contracts.

Sources: Report on XIX Commonwealth Games, 2010, Committee on Public Accounts; PRS.

The PAC submits its report after examining the selected subject. While the significance of each report depends on the issue examined, the number of reports published by PAC can serve as a proxy for the quantity of work done by the PAC. There is wide variation in the number of reports published by PACs across Lok Sabhas.

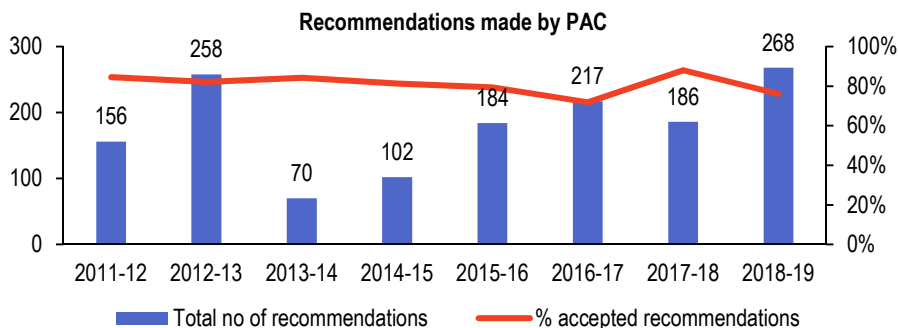
Figure 3: PAC has tabled more reports recently



Sources: Lok Sabha website; PRS.

On average, the PAC has made 180 recommendations every year in the past eight years, out of which 80% were accepted by the government. Figure 4 shows the percentage of recommendations of the PAC which were accepted each year.

Figure 4: 80% of PAC's recommendations accepted by government



Sources: Summary of work of financial Committees, Lok Sabha website; PRS.

Committee on Estimates

The Estimates Committee assists Parliament in overseeing pre-budget estimates of the government, and examines whether the proposed expenditure is within the limits of government policy. It also reports on administrative reforms needed within Ministries, and suggests policies to bring about efficiency in administration. The Committee may select subjects on the estimated expenditure of a part of a Ministry. The Speaker may also refer a subject for examination to the Committee.

Import of uranium

The Committee on Estimates examined the subject 'Import of Uranium for Nuclear Plants' for three years between 2014 and 2018. One of the main observations of the Committee was that the majority of domestic production of uranium comes from mines in Jharkhand. High extraction cost involved in mining makes it unviable as compared to imported uranium. It noted that the dependence on imported uranium will reduce if domestic production is increased and new mines are developed. The Committee recommended that adequate financial allocation should be provided such that new mines can be opened to increase domestic production of uranium.

Sources: Report on Import of Uranium for Nuclear Plants. Committee on Estimates; PRS.

Prior to 1993, this Committee carried out the task of examining proposed estimates of expenditure by various ministries. Since 1993, the DRSCs have taken over this function leaving the Estimates Committee to examine the working of government organisations.

Subjects selected for examination by Estimates Committees (2019-20)

- Development of Airports in various parts of the Country
- Mining Activities and Environment
- Border Area Development Programme
- Review of Digital India Programme
- Review of Performance of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Aawas Yojana
- Review of progress of all AIIMS

Sources: Lok Sabha website; PRS.

Committee on Public Undertakings

The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) analyses the accounts and CAG reports of public sector undertakings (PSUs). The Committee can choose to scrutinise any PSUs under its purview. Table 5 lists some of the subjects selected for study by COPU in 2019-20.

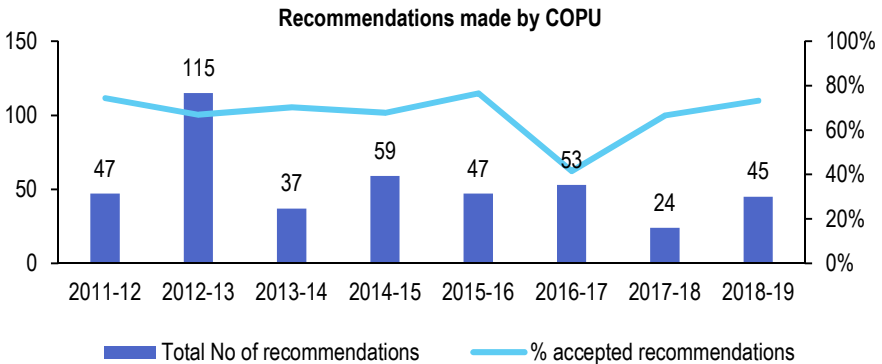
Subjects selected by Committee on Public Undertakings (2019-20)

- Airports Authority of India
- Food Corporation of India
- Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited
- Review of Performance of CPSUs in Oil and Natural Gas sector
- Review of Performance of Public Sector Insurance Companies
- Corporate Governance in CPSUs

Sources: Lok Sabha website; PRS.

After examination of issues, COPU presents its reports containing recommendations to Parliament. Figure 3 illustrates the number of recommendations made by the Committee on Public Undertakings since 2011. In 2018-19, the Committee on Public Undertakings made 45 recommendations, of which 73% were accepted by the government. In the past eight years, 67% of the recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted by the government.

Figure 5: 67% of the recommendations made by COPU have been accepted



Sources: Summary of work of financial Committees, Lok Sabha website; PRS.

Examining the functioning of the National Highways Authority of India

In 2017, the Committee on Public Undertakings analysed the working of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which develops, manages and maintains National Highways across the country. It noted that development of road infrastructure is necessary for the progress of the country. In this context, it observed that there are long delays in the completion of highway projects. From 1995 to 2016, only 55 out of 388 projects were completed on time. Reasons for delays included land acquisition issues and non-availability of requisite environment and forest clearances. The Committee recommended that no project should be initiated unless 80% of land is already acquired by NHAI, and the required environmental and forest clearances are obtained.¹

Sources: Report on the National Highways Association of India, Committee on Public Undertakings; PRS.

Accountability Committees

Three Parliamentary Committees: the Committee on Petitions, the Committee on Assurances, and the Committee on Subordinate Legislation help in ensuring accountability of the government to Parliament and its citizens.

Committee on Petitions

The Committee on Petitions examines complaints sent to it in the form of petitions by the public. Petitioning involves sending a written appeal to Parliament. Any person can petition Parliament to make MPs aware of their opinion and to request action. Petitions may be sent regarding Bills, matters pending before the House, and any other matter of public interest related to the work of the government. After the Committee examines the complaints, it submits a report. The report addresses the complaints and suggests remedial measures. Based on the recommendations adopted by the government, an Action Taken Report is published.

Committee on Government Assurances

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinises the assurances, promises, and undertakings given by Ministers on the floor of the House. It ensures that commitments made by the government are implemented in a timely manner. Assurances must be implemented by the relevant Ministry within three months of being made. The Ministry may request the Committee for an extension or for the assurance to be dropped. The Committee addresses these issues in its report.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation

While formulating legislation, Parliament lays down broad principles on various issues. However, it leaves the procedural details to the government to frame in the form of rules and regulations. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation scrutinises whether the powers to make regulations, rules, and sub-laws are being properly exercised. It examines all subordinate legislation made by the central government. After completing its study, the Committee presents its recommendations in a report which is tabled in both Houses.

Regulation of cigarettes and other tobacco products

In 2016, the Committee on Subordinate Legislation examined the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Amendment Rules, 2014. These amendments increased the size of pictorial health warnings on all tobacco products from 40% on one side to 85% on both sides of the display. Further, information like name of product, manufacturer, quantity, and date of manufacture were also to be published on the package. The Committee noted that the amendment rules also covered beedis. It observed that the beedi industry would not survive if it was covered by the amendments. This could lead to unemployment for the 44 lakh beedi rollers in India. Further, the conical shape of beedi packaging would not allow for all the required information to be displayed on it. Therefore, it recommended that the beedi industry should be exempted from the proposed rules.

Sources: Report on Cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Amendment Rules, 2014, Committee on Subordinate Legislation; PRS.

Strengthening Parliamentary Committees

Referring Bills to Committees

Currently, it is not mandatory to refer a Bill to a Committee. In some Parliamentary systems like the UK, all Bills other than Money Bills are automatically referred to Committees.² However, in India it depends on the decision of the Speaker or Chairman, in consultation with the Minister putting forth the Bill, whether a Bill should be referred to a Committee.

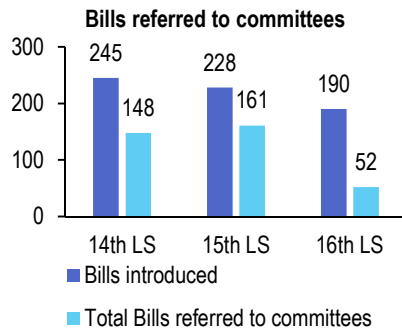
Figure 6 shows that during the period of 16th Lok Sabha only 27% Bills were referred to Committees. This number is significantly lower than previous two Lok Sabhas.

Referring all Bills to a Committee would ensure that all laws go through a minimum level of Parliamentary scrutiny.

In the past, several complex Bills such as the National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill, 2014, and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 have been rushed through Parliament without detailed examination.

Discussing the recommendations made by the Committees, or specifying the reasons for rejecting certain recommendations is also not mandatory. Discussing these details in the House could add more depth and value to the debate in Parliament.

Figure 6: 27% bills were referred to committees during 16th Lok Sabha



Sources: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Bulletins; PRS.

Expert witnesses and research support

To aid in their study, members of DRSCs can consult with expert witnesses, stakeholders, and government officials. Engaging with experts and stakeholders enables Committee members to better understand the details of complicated issues, and the potential impact of a policy or legislation.

Recommendations on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016

The Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment examined the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 and submitted its report in 2017. In the course of its study, the Committee consulted with numerous stakeholders and expert witnesses such as Amnesty International India and South Indian Transgenders Federation.¹ Based on its consultations with witnesses and its independent analysis of the Bill, the Committee recommended significant changes in the Bill such as changing the definition of the term transgender. Following these recommendations, the Ministry changed the definition of 'transgender' in the Bill.

Sources: Report on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016, Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment; PRS.

Note that Committees invite witnesses to testify before them at their own discretion. For instance, the DRSC that examined the Right to Education Bill, 2008, which guarantees free education to all children ages six to 14, did not invite any expert witnesses.³

Apart from consulting experts, Committees can also invite comments from the wider public. For example, the Committee on Labour and Employment published a press release inviting public comments on the Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019. Public comments help Committees consider the wider implications of a Bill or policy. However, it is up to the discretion of the Committee whether or not they chose to invite public comments.

Currently, the technical support available to Parliamentary Committees is limited to a secretariat that helps with matters such as scheduling meetings and note taking. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002) had highlighted the lack of research support and specialist advisors with the DRSCs.⁴ It recommended that funds should be secured to assist these Committees in conducting inquiries, holding public hearings, and collecting data. Note that Committees in other countries such as the UK, USA, and Canada can retain specialist advisors (such as lawyers, economists, and statisticians) to assist in specific inquiries.⁵

Table 6 highlights the number of witnesses invited and the number of sittings held for some Bills that were recently referred to Committees.

Table 6: Witnesses invited by Committees

Title	Committee Name	Witnesses	Sittings
The Code on Wages, 2017	Labour	15	6
The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Health and Family Welfare	18	5
The Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	60	9
The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Finance	33	8
The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016	Social Justice & Empowerment	14	5
The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	23	5

Note: Time taken to submit the reports on these Bills was at least 250 days.

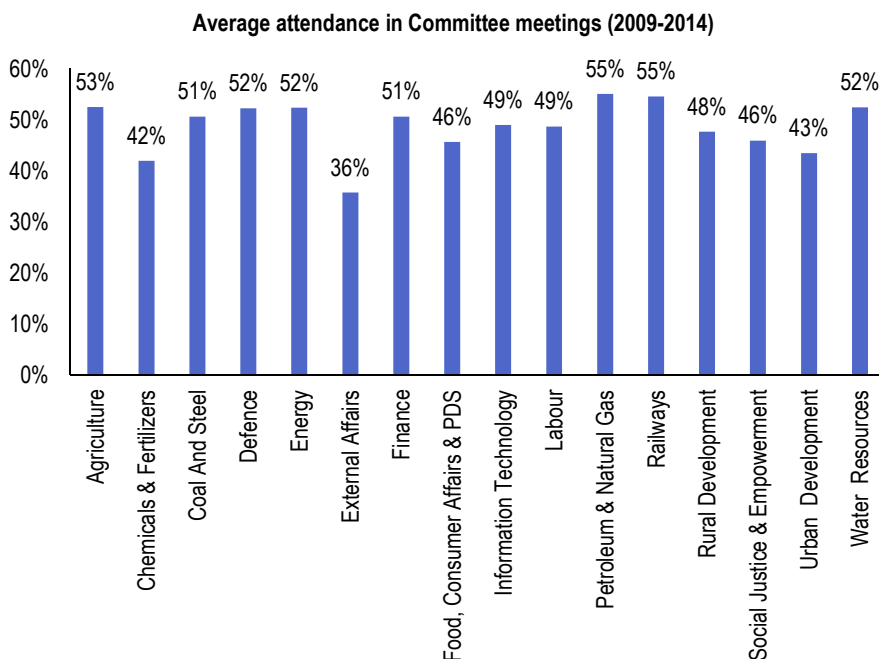
Sources: Committee Reports from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites; PRS.

Attendance of Members

Parliamentary Committees hold several meetings to conduct in-depth analysis of various issues through extensive deliberations among Members. Success of the Committee system depends on the participation of Members in these meetings. Though Committee meetings are conducted in a closed-door environment, Lok Sabha

publishes the attendance of Members in these meetings. Sixteen of the 24 DRSCs are administered by Lok Sabha and other eight by Rajya Sabha. Figure 7 shows the attendance of members during 2009-14 for the 16 DRSCs serviced by Lok Sabha. On average, 49% members were present for meetings of these Committees between this period.

Figure 7: Committee meetings had 49% attendance between 2009-2014



Sources: Summary of work of DRSCs, Lok Sabha website; PRS.

Notes

¹ Report no. 19, Committee on Public Undertakings, ‘National Highways Association of India’, Lok Sabha, August 2, 2017,

http://164.100.47.193/lssccommittee/Public%20Undertakings/16_Public_Undertakings_19.pdf.

² ‘Public Bill Committees’, UK Parliament, <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/commons/scrutinyunit/public-bill-committees/>.

³ Report no. 213, Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, ‘Right to Education Bill, 2008’, Rajya Sabha, January 23, 2009,

https://prsindia.org/sites/default/files/bill_files/scr1235039268_Right_to_Education_bill_2008.pdf.

⁴ “Parliament and State Legislatures,” Chapter 5 of The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, March 31, 2002,

<http://legalaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/chapter%205.pdf>.

⁵ “Parliament and State Legislatures,” Chapter 5 of The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, March 31, 2002, <http://legalaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/chapter%205.pdf>.

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