

QUESTION 03

संसद और राज्य विधानमंडलों में बैठकों की संख्या में कमी के लिए जिम्मेदार कारकों और कानून निर्माण की गुणवत्ता और समग्र शासन पर इसके प्रभाव का आकलन कीजिए।

(10 अंक, 150 शब्द)

Assess the factors contributing to the decline in the number of sittings in Parliament and state legislatures, and its impact on the quality of legislation and overall governance. (10 Marks, 150 Words)

Thought Process (Pre-Writing Work)

- Parts of the question with expected marks criteria
- Directive Word(s)
- Topic Word(s)
- Limiting Words
- Writing Presentation
- Writing Interpretation

This section will be discussed in the Answer Discussion Class.

Description of the Answer Content

According to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, both Houses witnessed frequent disruptions during the 2025 Monsoon Session and, thus, productivity of the Lok Sabha stood at around 31% and that of the Rajya Sabha at around 39%, as against 100% or more a decade ago.

The reduction in the duration of sessions will have far-reaching negative implications for Indian democracy as a continued decline limits legislative scrutiny and disrupts the vital parliamentary committee system, thereby negatively impacting the quality of lawmaking, declining accountability of political leaders and the efficiency of overall governance.

Factors contributing to the decline in the number of sittings:

- **Frequent disruptions:** Excessive disruptions, walkouts, and adjournments by both the ruling and opposition parties consume significant legislative time. E.g. recently in 2025 monsoon session.
- **Executive dominance:** A stronger executive, often with a clear majority, reduces the legislature to a "rubber stamp". It can control sitting days by recommending the session schedule to the Governor (in states).
- **Political polarization:** Growing partisanship and the focus on political theatrics over constructive debate have lowered the quality of legislative discourse.
- **Rise of ordinances:** The frequent use of ordinances bypasses parliamentary scrutiny, undermining the legislature's importance.
- **Weakening of parliamentary committees:** The percentage of bills referred to committees for detailed examination has drastically fallen, with only 11% sent to committees in the 17th Lok Sabha.

Impact on legislation and governance:

- **Poor quality legislation:** Bills are often rushed and passed with minimal debate, leading to ambiguous laws and flawed implementation (e.g., the 2020 Farm Laws).
- **Erosion of accountability:** A reduced number of sittings limits the legislature's ability to hold the executive accountable through mechanisms like Question Hour and budget discussions. In 2023, over 75% of budget demands were passed without debate.
- **Increased judicial intervention:** With legislative paralysis, the judiciary has at times stepped in to fill the policy void, blurring the separation of powers.
- **Diminished public trust:** Declining decorum and productivity erode public confidence in the democratic process, fostering disillusionment with the system.
- **Impact on federalism:** In state legislatures, fewer sittings hinder proper deliberation on state-specific issues and oversight of state finances.

The decline in parliamentary sittings and productivity is not just a procedural problem but a systemic crisis of institutional health that is undermining the foundations of deliberative democracy. Structural reforms and stronger enforcement of procedural rules are needed to reverse this trend.

If Aspirants have any doubts, kindly ask the Mentor in the Answer Discussion Class

The purpose of this explanation is to value addition only.

One Model Answer can be...

According to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, during the 2025 Monsoon Session, Lok Sabha's productivity was only 31% and Rajya Sabha's 39%, a steep fall from over 100% a decade ago, is one of the major concerns in India's parliamentary democracy.

Factors contributing to the decline include:

- Frequent disruptions due to political confrontation and lack of consensus.
- Election cycles reducing time for governance.
- Increased use of ordinances, bypassing legislative debate. (e.g. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023)
- Executive dominance limiting the role of the legislature.
- No fixed minimum sittings mandated by law.
- Decline in committee referrals over time. (e.g. 71% of bills were sent to committees for scrutiny in 15th Lok Sabha. This percentage dropped significantly to 27% in 16th Lok Sabha. In 17th Lok Sabha, the number declined further, with only 16% of bills being referred.

Impact:

- Leads to hasty legislation without proper scrutiny.
- Weakens executive accountability due to reduced Question Hour and debates.
- Affects public trust and erodes democratic deliberation.
- Undermines federal principles, as state legislatures follow similar patterns.

Therefore, the decline in both the number and quality of sittings impairs the legislative process, threatening the core values of transparency, accountability, and representative governance in India.

Aspirants can use the brainstorming method to answer such information. Such method helps in avoiding unnecessary rambling and ensures that all the main points are covered within the word count.

Space for Answer Discussion

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