

WHY DO WE NEED A PARLIAMENT? (THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT)

Class VIII. CIVICS.

That structure
of parliament.

- **The parliament of India is the supreme law making institution. It has two houses, the Rajya sabha and the Lok sabha.**
- **Rajya sabha has a total strength of 245 members and is chaired by the vice president of India.**
- **Loksabha with a total membership of 545 is presided over by the speaker.**
- **Elections to the parliament particularly to the lok sabha are held in a similar manner as they are for the state legislature. The lok sabha is usually elected once every five years.**

Selecting the national government.

- **The parliament in India consists of the President, the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.**
- **For a political party to form the government, they must have a majority of elected MPs.**
- **The opposition in parliament is formed by all the political parties that oppose the majority party or the coalition formed. The largest among these parties is called the opposition party.**
- **One of the most important functions of the Lok Sabha is to select the executive from the elected MPs. This executive is often what we have in mind when we use the term government.**
- **The prime minister of India is the leader of the ruling party in the Lok Sabha and he selects all other ministers who then take charge of different departments.**
- **If it is difficult for a single political party to get the majority, they then join together with different political parties and form the government, which is known as a coalition government.**
- **The Rajya Sabha can also initiate legislation and a bill is required to pass through the Rajya Sabha in order to become a law.**

To control guide
and inform the
government.

- **By asking questions the government is alerted to its shortcomings and also comes to know the opinion of the people through their representatives in the parliament.**
- **The MPs highlight drawbacks in various policies and programmes of the Government and mobilise popular support for their own policies.**
- **In all matters dealing with finances, the parliament's approval is crucial for the government.**

Law making.

- **The law making is a significant function of the parliament.**
- **Any proposal or bill if passed by both of the houses of parliament becomes the law.**

Homework

- 1. The role of the parliament/ importance of the parliament.**
- 2. Read the topic.**