



Legislature (Parliament)

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Meaning of Legislature

- ▶ The term 'Legislature' is a generic term meaning a body which legislates.
- ▶ The term 'Legg' means law and 'lature' means the place so legislature means a place for law-making.
- ▶ The term 'Parliament' is used as synonym of Legislature.
- ▶ 'Parliament' is derived from the word 'Parley' which means to talk or to discuss and deliberate.
- ▶ In this way we can say parliament means the place where deliberations are held.

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- ▶ **The legislature is that branch of government which passes the laws of the government.**
- ▶ **It is that organ of government which formulates laws.**
- ▶ **It enjoys prominent place in every democratic state.**
- ▶ **It is the assembly of the elected representatives of the people**
- ▶ **It also represents national public opinion and power of the people.**

Functions of Legislature

- ▶ **Law making Functions**
- ▶ **Deliberative Functions**
- ▶ **Financial Functions**
- ▶ **Executive Functions**
- ▶ **Constituent Functions**
- ▶ **Electoral Functions**
- ▶ **Judicial Functions**
- ▶ **Ventilation of Grievances**

Legislative Functions

- ▶ **To make Law**
- ▶ **To change or revision of Law**
- ▶ **To amend Law**
- ▶ **To suspend Bill**
- ▶ **To discuss Bill**
- ▶ **To appoint Legislative committees**
- ▶ **To provoke or promulgated Bill**

Executive Functions

- ▶ **To ask questions or supplementary questions**
- ▶ **To control or criticize Executive**
- ▶ **Vote of NO-Confidence Motion**
- ▶ **To control Foreign and national policies of Executive**
- ▶ **To ask tender resignation**

Financial Functions

- ▶ **To pass Budget**
- ▶ **To debate and discuss on Budget**
- ▶ **To audit and check on accounts**
- ▶ **To form financial Committees**

Judicial or Semi Judicial Functions

- ▶ **To control indirectly**
- ▶ **To remove judges**
- ▶ **To control judicial activity through executive some extent**
- ▶ **To remove President and vice President**

Electoral Functions

- ▶ **Indian parliament houses elect the president and vice president**
- ▶ **In Switzerland the Federal Legislature elects the members of the Federal Council and the Federal Tribunal**

Ventilation of Grievances

- ▶ **It is the highest forum for ventilation of public grievances against executive**
- ▶ **It acts as national forum for expressing public opinion and grievances**
- ▶ **Parliamentary debates and discussions throw a flood light over various issues of public importance**

Types of Legislature

- ▶ **Bi-cameral Legislature**
- ▶ **Uni-cameral Legislature**

Bi-cameral Legislature

- ▶ **Bicameralism means two houses of legislature**
- ▶ **A large number of modern legislature particularly big states have bicameral legislatures**
- ▶ **In Bicameralism the first house is usually called the lower house, and the second house is called the upper house.**
- ▶ **India, USA, UK, France, Russia, Switzerland, Australia**

Unicameral Legislature

- ▶ **Unicameralism means a legislature with a single house**
- ▶ **In several states mostly the small states and provinces of a federal system have unicameral legislatures**
- ▶ **China, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Portugal etc.**
- ▶ **The state legislatures of all the Canadian and Swiss cantons are unicameral**
- ▶ **In India 6 states and 2 union Territories have unicameral legislatures....**

Merits of Bicameralism

- ▶ **It safeguards against the Despotism of a single Chamber**
- ▶ **Checks on Hasty and ill considered legislation**
- ▶ **It act as a Revising Chamber**
- ▶ **Lessens the burden of the First house**
- ▶ **Better represents Public Opinion**
- ▶ **Essential for giving Representation to Special Interests**
- ▶ **Delay is Useful**
- ▶ **Essential for a Federation**

Demerits of Bicameralism

- ▶ **Two chambers confuse public opinion**
- ▶ **Second chamber is Superfluous**
- ▶ **Problem of organizing the Second chamber**
- ▶ **No Law is passed in a Hurry**
- ▶ **Source of Delay in Legislation**
- ▶ **Unnecessary system for revision of bill**
- ▶ **Second chamber mostly conservative and reactionary chamber**
- ▶ **Special interest can be represented in the First House**

