

BPS-S302

## **Ability Enhancement (Elective) Skill Based (4)**

### **1. Legislative Support**

**Aim of the course:** To acquaint the student broadly with the legislative process in India at various levels, introduce them to the requirements of peoples' representatives and provide elementary skills to be part of a legislative support team.

#### **Rationale:**

Peoples' representatives need support for the multiple tasks they are supposed to undertake. The need to understand complex policy issues, draft new legislation, track and analyse ongoing bills, make speeches and floor statements, write articles and press releases, attend legislative meetings, conduct meetings with various stakeholders, monitor media and public developments, manage constituent relations and handle inter-office communications. All over the world, elected representatives have an office with specialised support team to carry out these tasks.

In India this has just begun. With about 5000 MPs and MLAs, and more than 30 lakhs representatives at the Panchayati Raj level, there is a vast need that needs to be responded to. This course will equip the students with basic skills for this task and expose them to real life legislative work. It will build their skills and deepen their understanding of the political process

#### **Course outline:**

**1. Powers and functions of people's representatives at different tiers of governance**

Members of Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies, functionaries of rural and urban local self government from Zila Parishads/Municipal Corporation to Panchayat/Ward. **(Weeks 1-3)**

**2. Supporting the legislative process:** How a Bill becomes a Law, Role of the Standing Committee in reviewing a Bill, Legislative Consultations, amendments to a Bill, the framing of Rules and Regulations. **(Week 4)**

**3. Supporting the legislative committees**

Types of committees, Role of committees in reviewing government finances, policy, programmes, and legislation. **(Weeks 5-7)**

**4. Reading the budget document:**

Overview of Budget Process, Role of Parliament in reviewing the Union Budget, Railway Budget, Examination of Demands for Grants of Ministries, Working of Ministries. (Weeks 8-10)

5. ***Support in media monitoring and communication***: Types of media and their significance for legislators. Basics of communication in print and electronic media. (Weeks 11-12)

**Suggested Readings:**

Madhavan, M.R. & N.Wahi ***Financing of Election Campaigns*** PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delh, 2008:

[http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/conference/Campaign\\_finance\\_brief.pdf](http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/conference/Campaign_finance_brief.pdf)

Vanka, S. ***Primer on MPLADS*** Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2008. can be accessed on:

<http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/primers/mplads-487/>

Kalra, H. ***Public Engagement with the Legislative Process*** PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2011. can be accessed on:

<http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Public%20Engagement%20with%20the%20Legislative%20Process.pdf>

Government of India (Lok Sabha Secretariat) ***Parliamentary Procedures (Abstract Series)***, 2009. Can be accessed on:

<http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/abstract/index.aspx>

Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs) ***Legislation, Parliamentary Procedure***, 2009. Can be accessed on:

[http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual\\_English/Chapter/chapter-09.htm](http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-09.htm)

Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs) ***Subordinate Legislation, Parliamentary Procedure***, 2009. Can be accessed on:

[http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual\\_English/Chapter/chapter-11.htm](http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-11.htm)

Kapur, Devesh and Pratap Banu Mehta, "The Indian Parliament as an Institution of Accountability," *Democracy, Governance and Human Rights*, Programme Paper Number 23, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, January 2006. Can be accessed on:

[http://www.unrisd.org/UNRISD/website/document.nsf/240da49ca467a53f80256b4f005ef245/8e6fc72d6b546696c1257123002fcceb/\\$FILE/KapMeht.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/UNRISD/website/document.nsf/240da49ca467a53f80256b4f005ef245/8e6fc72d6b546696c1257123002fcceb/$FILE/KapMeht.pdf)

Agarwal, O.P. and T.V. Somanathan, "Public Policy Making in India: Issues and Remedies," February, 2005. Can be accessed on:

<http://www.cprindia.org/admin/paper/Public Policy Making in India 14205 TV SOMANATHAN.pdf>.

Debroy, Bibek, "Why we need law reform," *Seminar* January 2001.

Mehta, Pratap Bhanu, "India's Unlikely Democracy: The Rise of Judicial Sovereignty," *Journal of Democracy* Vol.18, No.2, pp.70-83.

**Government links:**

<http://loksabha.nic.in/>; <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/>; <http://mpa.nic.in/>

Sanyal, K. *Strengthening Parliamentary Committees* PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2011. can be accessed on: <http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Strengthening%20Parliamentary%20Committees.pdf>

Celestine, A. *How to read the Union Budget* PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, 2011. can be accessed on: <http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/primers/how-to-read-the-union-budget-1023/>