



The Doon School
Model United Nations 2025
16th to 18th August

Lok Sabha Rules and Procedure

*"A World Torn by Conflict,
Brought Together by Dialogue"*

What is a Lok Sabha Committee?

The Lok Sabha is the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament, comprising elected representatives from across the country. In MUN or parliamentary simulations, the Lok Sabha committee replicates the procedures of India's real parliamentary debates and decision-making process. Delegates represent Members of Parliament (MPs) and debate current or historic bills, motions, or national crises. Unlike crisis or UN-style committees, the Lok Sabha focuses on legislation, inter-party dynamics, and national governance.

Overview of Lok Sabha Debate

Agenda Selection

Before debate begins, the committee selects an agenda (e.g., farm laws, national education policy, unemployment, defense procurement). This is done through voting or is pre-decided by the executive board (EB).

Speaker of the House

The Speaker moderates the session. This role is played by a member of the EB and holds the authority to recognize speakers, maintain decorum, allow or disallow motions and announce voting results.

Structure of Debate

1. General Speakers' List (GSL)

This is the default format of debate where delegates deliver structured speeches to express their views on the agenda. Each Member of Parliament (MP) is allotted 1 to 2 minutes to speak in the order listed. The General Speakers' List (GSL) continues uninterrupted unless a delegate raises and the committee passes a motion for an alternate form of debate, such as a moderated or unmoderated caucus. It provides delegates with the opportunity to lay out their party's stance, articulate concerns, and build the foundation for further discussion and negotiation.

2. Moderated Caucus

This allows focused discussion on specific subtopics within the larger agenda. Delegates may motion for a moderated caucus by specifying the topic of discussion, the speaking time per delegate (typically between 30 to 90 seconds), and the total duration of the caucus (usually 5 to 15 minutes). For example, a delegate might propose a "moderated caucus on provisions for refugee identification under the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB)" with 45 seconds per speaker for a total of 10 minutes. This format is ideal for diving deeper into particular issues, building momentum for consensus, or clarifying positions before drafting or amending legislation.

3. Unmoderated Caucus

This is informal lobbying time for delegates to negotiate bills, amendments, alliances, and strategic partnerships. No formal speeches occur; instead, delegates are free to move around the room, engage in off-the-record discussions, and collaborate with others. It is during this time that crucial

backroom deals are made—delegates may draft bill clauses, amend proposals, form voting blocs, or even negotiate walkouts. Just like real-life Indian parliamentary politics, where parties often engage in behind-the-scenes negotiations before major votes, delegates in a simulated Lok Sabha should use unmoderated caucuses to build consensus or sway support. Strategic use of this time can significantly influence the outcome of the committee's decisions.

4. Point of Information (POI)

After a delegate delivers a speech or makes a formal statement, the Speaker may permit Points of Information (POIs), which are brief, pointed questions posed by other delegates. These questions must be phrased clearly and concisely as interrogatives, not comments or rebuttals. The number of POIs allowed is entirely at the Speaker's discretion, and the Speaker may choose to allow multiple, a single, or no POIs at all depending on time constraints and the flow of the debate. POIs are an effective tool for challenging opposing viewpoints, seeking clarification, or drawing attention to inconsistencies in a delegate's argument.

5. Point of Order / Parliamentary Inquiry

These points are used to address issues related to the functioning of the committee. A Point of Order is raised when a delegate believes there has been a procedural error or deviation from established rules. A Parliamentary Inquiry, on the other hand, is used to ask the Speaker for clarification regarding the rules or the flow of debate. Both are essential tools to ensure that proceedings remain fair, transparent, and within the bounds of parliamentary procedure. The Speaker rules immediately on such points, and they take precedence over all other matters except a Point of Personal Privilege.

6. Question Hour

Question Hour is the first hour of a Lok Sabha session, where delegates can raise questions directed at the government to seek information or hold ministries accountable. In a simulation, this period allows opposition MPs and even members of the ruling party to question ministers on policies, recent developments, or administrative decisions. These questions must be framed formally and can be either starred (requiring oral answers) or unstarred (requiring written responses), depending on the committee's structure. Question Hour reflects the democratic principle of transparency and is a vital tool for scrutinizing executive action. Delegates should use this time strategically to expose contradictions, demand clarifications, or create political pressure around the agenda.

7. Zero Hour

Zero Hour is an informal period immediately following Question Hour, where MPs can raise urgent matters without prior notice or listed agenda. In a simulation, it provides delegates the opportunity to bring up spontaneous or breaking issues—ranging from national crises to constituency concerns—that require immediate attention but fall outside the scope of the current agenda. There is no formal rulebook governing Zero Hour, which allows for

greater flexibility, but the Speaker decides whether to allow a member to speak and for how long. Delegates can use Zero Hour to highlight pressing issues, initiate off-agenda debates, or strategically shift the committee's tone. In real Lok Sabha sessions, Zero Hour has been used to raise matters such as sudden economic downturns, communal incidents, or environmental disasters.

Documentation

A bill is the primary working document in a Lok Sabha session and forms the basis of all legislative debate. It can be introduced by a delegate individually or in collaboration with others, typically representing a party or coalition. Each bill must adhere to the Indian legislative format, comprising a clear title, a preamble outlining its purpose or intent, and a series of actionable clauses. Once introduced, the bill is debated in a structured manner, with each clause discussed individually to allow for focused deliberation. Delegates may propose amendments to specific clauses before the committee votes on them. Following the clause-by-clause process, the entire bill is put to a final vote, determining whether it passes or fails in the committee.

Amendments

Amendments allow delegates to refine or reshape a bill by making specific changes to its clauses. During the clause-by-clause debate, any delegate may motion to amend a particular clause—this can involve adding new content, modifying existing language, or striking the clause entirely. Each proposed amendment is discussed and then put to a vote. To be adopted, an amendment must receive a simple majority from the committee. This process ensures that the final version of the bill reflects broader consensus and addresses diverse viewpoints within the House.

Resolutions / Statements

Although rare, delegates may introduce and pass non-binding resolutions or statements to formally express the collective will or sentiment of the House on particular matters. These do not carry legislative weight or alter policy but serve symbolic or diplomatic purposes. Common examples include issuing condemnations of events, paying tribute to national figures, or making general appeals on moral or social issues. Such resolutions reflect the tone and values of the committee and can be powerful tools for shaping public perception or signaling unity across party lines.

Role of Delegates

As an MP, you represent a party, and also an ideology. You might be a member of Ruling coalition, the opposition bloc, or an independent group. As a delegate in the Lok Sabha, you must be skilled in debating and writing. One must form alliances with other delegates, pass motions and draft legislative bills.

Motions in Lok Sabha Committee

Motion	Purpose
Motion to Set Agenda	Choose the topic for debate
Motion for GSL	Resume structured speeches
Motion for Moderated Caucus	Focused topic discussion
Motion for Unmoderated Caucus	Lobbying and drafting bills
Motion to Introduce a Bill	Bring legislation to the House
Motion to Vote on a Bill	Trigger clause-by-clause voting
Motion for Amendment	Propose changes to a bill clause

All motions require a **simple majority** unless specified otherwise.

Voting Procedure

In clause-by-clause voting, each individual clause of the bill is presented to the House for discussion and a separate vote. Delegates cast their vote as Yes, No, or Abstain for each clause, and a simple majority is required for it to pass. This process ensures that every part of the bill is carefully scrutinized and agreed upon by the majority of the House. It is particularly important for contentious bills, where certain clauses may face more resistance than others. For example, during the real-life debates on the Farm Laws, different provisions of the bills sparked varying levels of controversy and could have been voted on separately. Once all the clauses are voted upon, the bill as a whole is put to a final vote to determine its passage in its complete form.

Sample Bill Format

Title: National Climate Action Bill, 2025

Introduced by: Shri Arjun Mehta (INC – New Delhi), Smt. Aarti Nair (NCP – Mumbai)

Preamble: Whereas the effects of climate change pose a significant threat to India's environment and economy;

Clause 1: Establish a National Climate Fund with ₹5,000 crore initial corpus

Clause 2: Mandate state-level Green Tribunals in all districts by 2026

Clause 3: Introduce carbon tax on industries exceeding emissions cap

Effective Date: 1 January 2026

Preparing for Committee

Thorough research is essential for effective participation in a Lok Sabha simulation. Start by understanding your MP's past actions, public statements, voting record, and alignment with their party's ideology. Familiarize yourself with the legislative history of the agenda under discussion—identify any previous bills, amendments, or parliamentary debates related to the issue. Additionally, gather up-to-date news articles, expert reports, government data, and statistics to support your arguments with evidence. Solid research not only strengthens your credibility during debate but also helps you anticipate counterarguments and craft more realistic and impactful legislative proposals.

Position Papers

Your position paper or preparatory notes should clearly outline three key components: your stance on the agenda, proposed solutions or bill outlines, and your strategy during debate. Begin by stating your MP's perspective on the issue, rooted in their party's ideology, constituency interests, and past actions. Then, present actionable solutions—this could include policy proposals, draft clauses for a bill, or reforms your MP would support. Finally, define your debate strategy: identify potential allies and opponents, decide whether to adopt a cooperative or confrontational tone, and plan how you'll use caucuses and lobbying to build support. A well-rounded plan ensures you're not just participating—but influencing the outcome.

Final Words

The Lok Sabha is where policy meets politics. Simulating it is not just about procedure—it's about debating ideas, defending ideologies, and drafting change.

Whether you're a fiery opposition leader or a calm cabinet minister, your job is to legislate for India's future—with strategy, knowledge, and voice.



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