

Q.2)

**Exp) Option b is the correct answer.**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Short notice questions allow Members of Parliament or Legislators to seek immediate clarification or information from the government on pressing issues. These questions can be asked for oral answer at a notice period less than 10 days.

**Statement 2 is correct:** In the case of short notice questions, the concerned Minister has the discretion to accept or reject the question. If the Minister agrees to answer, the question becomes admissible and can be taken up for discussion during the session.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Short notice questions are taken up after the question hour.

Q.4)

**Exp) Option b is the correct answer.**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The casting vote in the Parliament is cast by the Speaker or a person acting as the Speaker. The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House and has the authority to exercise the casting vote when required.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** The casting vote is not cast in addition to voting in the first instance. It is only used in specific situations when there is an equality of votes on a particular matter.

**Statement 3 is correct:** The casting vote is cast in the case of equality of votes. In parliamentary proceedings, if there is a tie or equal number of votes on a particular issue, the Speaker or the person acting as the Speaker can exercise the casting vote to break the tie and reach a decision.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:** The casting vote is not always cast to maintain the status quo. The Speaker or the person acting as the Speaker can exercise the casting vote based on their discretion or in accordance with parliamentary rules and procedures.

Q.7)

**Exp) Option b is the correct answer.**

For the purpose of constituting the Lok Sabha, the whole country has been divided into **543 Parliamentary Constituencies**, each one of which elects one member. The members of the Lok Sabha are elected directly by the eligible voters.

**Options 1 and 2 are correct.** Some seats are reserved in Lok Sabha for the members of the Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the order issued by the Delimitation Commission in 2008, 412 are general, **84 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 47 seats for the Scheduled Tribes.**

**Option 3 is incorrect.** There is **no reservation of seats for Backward classes** in Lok Sabha.

**Option 4 is incorrect.** The President of India used to nominate a maximum of two members as representatives of the Anglo- Indian community in Lok Sabha. In January 2020, the Anglo-Indian reserved seats in the Parliament and State Legislatures of India were abolished by the **104<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act** of 2019.

Q.8)

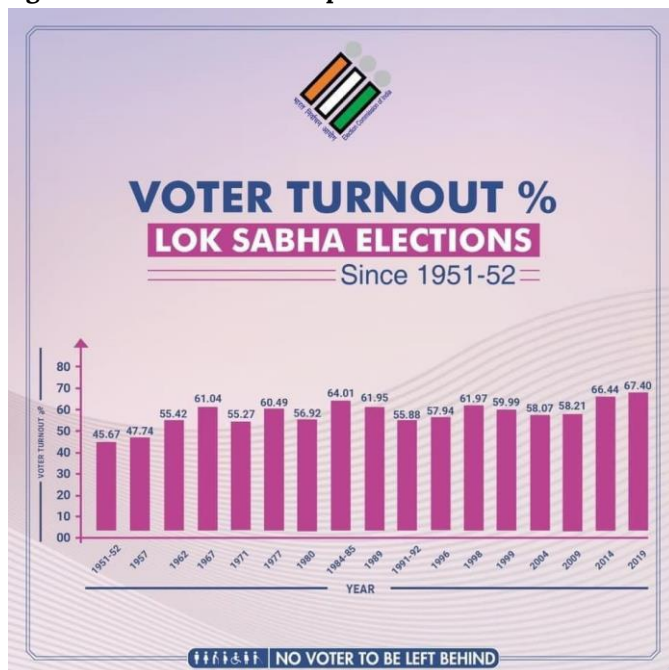
**Exp) Option d is the correct answer.**

Lok Sabha elections are typically held every five years. The term of the Lok Sabha is five years unless dissolved earlier. India uses a **first-past-the-post electoral system for Lok Sabha** elections. In each constituency, the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner.

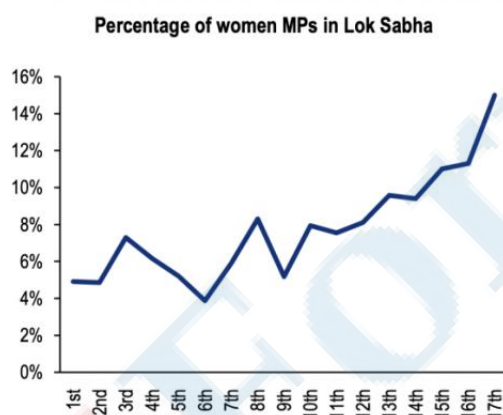
**Statement 1 is incorrect.** The **2019 Lok Sabha elections clocked a record turnout of 67.11%**, beating the previous turnout of 65.95% notched up in 2014, according to tentative data released by the Election Commission (EC).

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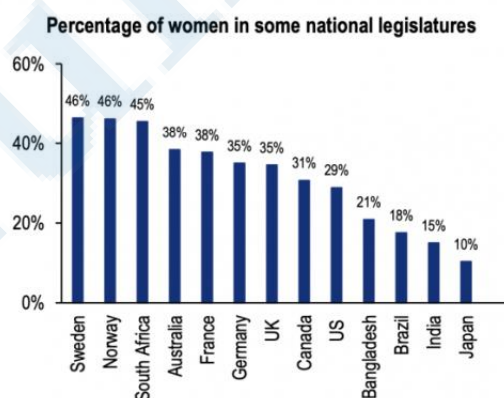
Statement 2 is incorrect. The 2019 elections elected the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. Currently, around 14% (78) of Lok Sabha MPs and around 10% (24) of Rajya Sabha MPs are women. The 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha has the highest number of women politicians ever with a total of 78, which is nearly 14%.



### Slow rise in the representation of women in Lok Sabha



Sources: Gender-Wise Statistical List, Lok Sabha, 2019; PRS.



Sources: Inter-Parliamentary Union Website as accessed on September 19, 2023; PRS.

Q.13)

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) have been formulated under Article 118 of the Constitution wherein each House of Parliament is required to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business.

**Statement a is correct:** Under the Rule 267, the Rule gives special power to a Rajya Sabha member to suspend the pre-decided agenda of the House, with the approval of the Chairman. It says, "Any member, may, with the consent of the Chairman, move that any rule may be suspended in its application to a

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motion related to the business listed before the Council of that day and if the motion is carried, the rule in question shall be suspended for the time being.”

**Statement b is incorrect:** Rule 51A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha states **regarding reduction in the limit of number of questions for oral answers** to 15 from existing 20. Whereas, Rule 267 says about the suspension of the pre-decided agenda in the council of the states.

**Statement c is incorrect:** Rule 256 of the rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business provides suspension of member (1) The Chairman may, if he deems it necessary, name a member who **disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the Council** by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof. (2) If a member is so named by the Chairman, he shall forthwith put the question on a motion being made, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, that the member (naming him) be **suspended from the service of the Council for a period not exceeding the remainder of the Session**: Provided that the Council may, at any time, on a motion being made, resolve that such suspension be terminated.

**Statement d is incorrect:** Rule 257 of the rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha provides **power of Chairman to adjourn Council** or suspend sitting in the case of grave disorder arising in the Council. Whereas, Rule 267 says about the suspension of the pre-decided agenda in the council of the states

Q.17)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The **institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms)**. At that time, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were called the President and Deputy President respectively and the same nomenclature continued till 1947. Before 1921, the Governor-General of India used to preside over the meetings of the Central Legislative Council. In 1921, the Frederick Whyte and Sachidanand Sinha were appointed by the Governor-General of India as the first Speaker and the first Deputy Speaker (respectively) of the central legislative assembly. In 1925, Vithalbhai J. Patel became the first Indian and the first elected Speaker of the central legislative assembly. The Government of India Act of 1935 changed the nomenclatures of President and Deputy President of the Central Legislative Assembly to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively. However, the old nomenclature continued till 1947 as the federal part of the 1935 Act was not implemented. G.V. Mavalankar and Ananthasayanam Ayyangar had the distinction of being the first Speaker and the first Deputy Speaker (respectively) of the Lok Sabha. G.V. Mavalankar also held the post of Speaker in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) as well as the provisional Parliament. He held the post of Speaker of Lok Sabha continuously for one decade from 1946 to 1956.

Q.22)

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

**Statement 1 is correct.** Legislature is not merely a lawmaking body. It is the centre of all democratic political process. Indeed, a genuine democracy is inconceivable without a representative, efficient and effective legislature.

**Statement 2 is correct.** The legislature also helps people in holding the representatives accountable. This is, indeed, the very basis of representative democracy.

Q.25)

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** Every political party, whether ruling or Opposition has its own whip in the Parliament.

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**Statement 2 is correct.** Whip is appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader. S/he is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the attendance of his party members in large numbers and regulates and monitors behavior of members of the political party in the Parliament.

Q.33)

**Exp) Option c is the correct answer.**

Special Mention is a tool used to raise issues of public importance in Parliament.

**Statement 1 is correct: The mechanism of 'special mention' is confined to Rajya Sabha.** Its equivalent procedural device in the Lok Sabha is known as 'Notice (Mention) Under Rule 377'.

**Statement 2 is correct: A matter which is not a point of order or which cannot be raised during question hour, half-an hour discussion, short duration discussion, calling attention notice or under any rule of the House can be raised under the special mention.**

Q.40)

**Exp) Option a is the correct answer.**

State legislatures have the authority to determine the languages to be used as the floor languages for conducting business within their respective assemblies. The choice of languages may vary from state to state, depending on linguistic diversity and regional preferences.

**Statement 1 is correct-** The Constitution designates the official language(s) of the state or either **Hindi or English as the languages for conducting business in the state legislature.** This provision ensures that legislative proceedings, including discussions and transactions, are carried out in the prescribed official language(s), facilitating effective communication and adherence to constitutional guidelines within the state legislature.

**Statement 2 is incorrect-** The **presiding officer, and not the governor** has the authority to **allow a member to address the House in their native language.** This provision recognizes the importance of linguistic diversity and facilitates effective communication for members who are more comfortable expressing themselves in their **mother tongue.**

**Statement 3 is incorrect-** The **state legislature (and not the Governor) has the power to determine the continuation or discontinuation of English** as a floor language after fifteen years from the Constitution's commencement. However, in the cases of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura, the time limit is extended to twenty-five years, while Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, and Mizoram have a time limit of forty years.

Q.42)

**Exp) Option b is the correct answer.**

The budget is based on the **principle of annuality**, that is, the Parliament grants money to the government for one financial year. If the **granted money is not spent by the end of the financial year**, then the balance expires and **returns to the Consolidated Fund of India.** This practice is known as the '**rule of lapse**'. It facilitates effective financial control by the Parliament as no reserve funds can be built without its authorisation. However, the observance of this rule leads to heavy rush of expenditure towards the close of the financial year. This is popularly called as 'March Rush'.

Q.43)

**Exp) Option a is the correct answer.**

**Option 1 is correct:** Article 245 of the Constitution gives Parliament the **power to make laws for the whole or any part of India**, and state legislatures the power to make laws for the state. Parliament **draws its power to repeal a law from the same provision.**



**Option 2 is incorrect:** In the United Kingdom, all Appropriation Acts usually contain a repealing provision which specifically repeals older Appropriation Acts. In Australia the route followed is that of automatic repeal for Appropriation Acts.

In India, however, **no such mechanism is in place and Appropriation Acts continue to sit on statute-books.** The Law Commission recommended that a practice like the one of the United Kingdom to include a repeal clause in the Appropriation Act every year would serve a useful purpose, without necessitating major amendments or introduction of new laws.

**Option 3 is incorrect:** Laws in India can be repealed in two ways – **either through an ordinance, or through legislation.** In case an ordinance is used, it would need to be replaced by a law passed by Parliament within six months. If the ordinance lapses because it is not approved by Parliament, the repealed law can be revived.

**Option 4 is incorrect:** The legislation for repealing of the law **have to be passed by both Houses of Parliament.** The government had brought **legislation to repeal the farm laws.** It will have to be passed by both Houses of Parliament and receive the President's assent before it comes into effect. Usually, Bills titled **Repealing and Amendment are introduced for this purpose.**

**Q.49)**

**Exp) Option b is the correct answer.**

A structured committee system was introduced in 1993 to provide for greater scrutiny of government functioning by Parliament. Most committees of Parliament include MPs from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. One such example is Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).

**Statement 1 is correct.** A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is an ad-hoc body. It is set up for a specific object and duration.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Joint committees are set up by a motion passed in one house of Parliament and agreed to by the other.

**Statement 3 is incorrect.** The JPC recommendations **are not binding upon the government.** The government may accept it or launch a fresh investigation based on the report. The government must report on the follow-up action based on which the committee submits the action taken report in the Parliament.