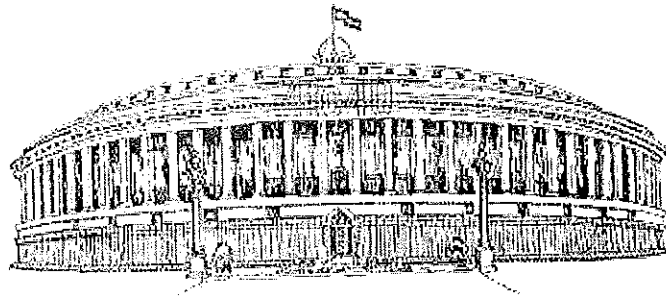


# DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*April, 2018/Chaitra, 1940 (Saka)*

DEPARTMENTALLY  
RELATED  
STANDING  
COMMITTEES



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**CDN No. ....**

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## **PREFACE**

This Brochure briefly describes the composition and functions of an procedures followed by the Departmentally Related Standing committees. It is hoped that the information contained in this publication would be fond useful by Members of Parliament and others interested in parliamentary studies.

**New Delhi;**  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Chaitra 15<sup>th</sup>, 1940 (Saka)**

**SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA**  
**Secretary-General**

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### DEPARTMENTARLLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Constitution

On the 29th of March 1993 the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha adopted rules establishing seventeen Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) covering all Government Ministries/Departments. Out of these 17 DRSCs, 11 were under Lok Sabha and 6 under Rajya Sabha. Thus in the history of Indian democracy a major initiative was taken in the direction of making the Parliament more effective in exercising control over and giving direction to the executive functioning and thereby making the executive more accountable. The new Committee system was inaugurated on 31st March, 1993 and the Standing Committees were constituted w. ef 8th April, 1993.

After watching the working of the DRSC system for over a decade, the system was re-structured in July, 2004 and the number of DRSCs was increased from 17 to 24.

The 24 Standing Committees cover under their jurisdiction the following Ministry/Departments: -

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	Name of Ministries/Departments
<b>Part I</b>		
1.	Committee on Commerce	(1) <b>Commerce and Industry</b> (i) Department of Commerce (ii) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
2.	Committee on Home Affairs	(1) <b>Home Affairs</b> (i) Department of Internal Security (ii) Department of States (iii) Department of Official Language (iv) Department of Home (v) Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs (vi) Department of Border Management (2) <b>Development of North-Eastern Region.</b>
3.	Committee on Human Resource Development	(1) <b>Human Resource Development</b> (i) Department of School Education and Literacy (ii) Department of Higher Education (2) <b>Youth Affairs and Sports</b> (i) Department of Youth Affairs (ii) Department of Sports (3) <b>Women and Child Development</b>
4.	Committee on Industry	(1) <b>Heavy Industries &amp; Public Enterprises</b> (i) Department of Heavy Industry (ii) Department of Public Enterprises (2) <b>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</b>
5.	Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests	(1) <b>Science and Technology</b> (i) Department of Science and Technology (ii) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (iii) Department of Bio-Technology (2) <b>Department of Space</b> (3) <b>Earth Sciences</b> (4) <b>Department of Atomic Energy</b> (5) <b>Environment, Forest and Climate Change</b>

6. Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture (1) **Civil Aviation**  
(2) **Road Transport and Highways**  
(3) **Shipping**  
(4) **Culture**  
(5) **Tourism**
7. Committee on Health and Family Welfare (1) **Health and Family Welfare**  
(i) Department of Health and Family Welfare  
(ii) Department of Health Research  
(2) **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Sidha and Homeopathy (AYUSH)**
8. Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice (1) **Law and Justice**  
(i) Department of Legal Affairs  
(ii) Legislative Department  
(ii) Department of Justice  
(2) **Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**  
(i) Department of Personnel and Training  
(ii) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)  
(iii) Department of Pension & Pensioner's Welfare
- Part II**
9. Committee on Agriculture (1) **Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare**  
(i) Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare  
(ii) Department of Agricultural Research & Education  
(iii) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries  
(2) **Food Processing Industries**
10. Committee on Information Technology (1) **Communications**  
(i) Department of Posts  
(ii) Department of Telecommunications (DOT)  
(2) **Electronics & Information Technology**  
(3) **Information & Broadcasting**
11. Committee on Defence (1) **Defence**  
(i) Department of Defence  
(ii) Department of Defence Production  
(iii) Department of Defence Research & Development  
(iv) Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
12. Committee on Energy (1) **New and Renewable Energy**  
(2) **Power**
13. Committee on External Affairs (1) **External Affairs**
14. Committee on Finance (1) **Finance**  
(i) Department of Economic Affairs  
(ii) Department of Expenditure  
(iii) Department of Financial Services  
(iv) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management  
(v) Department of Revenue

		(2)	<b>Corporate Affairs</b>
		(3)	<b>Planning (NITI AAYOG)</b>
		(4)	<b>Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>
15.	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	(1)	<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>
		(i)	Department of Consumer Affairs
		(ii)	Department of Food and Public Distribution
16.	Committee on Labour	(1)	<b>Labour and Employment</b>
		(2)	<b>Skill Development &amp; Entrepreneurship</b>
		(3)	<b>Textiles</b>
17.	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	(1)	<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>
18.	Committee on Railways	(1)	<b>Railways</b>
19.	Committee on Urban Development	(1)	<b>Housing and Urban Affairs</b>
20.	Committee on Water Resources	(1)	<b>Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation</b>
21.	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	(1)	<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>
		(i)	Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals
		(ii)	Department of Fertilizers
		(iii)	Department of Pharmaceuticals
22.	Committee on Rural Development	(1)	<b>Rural Development</b>
		(i)	Department of Rural Development
		(ii)	Department of Land Resources
		(2)	<b>Drinking Water and Sanitation</b>
		(3)	<b>Panchayati Raj</b>
23.	Committee on Coal and Steel	(1)	<b>Coal</b>
		(2)	<b>Mines</b>
		(3)	<b>Steel</b>
24.	Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	(1)	<b>Social Justice and Empowerment</b>
		(i)	Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
		(ii)	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangans)
		(2)	<b>Tribal Affairs</b>
		(3)	<b>Minority Affairs</b>

The Committees specified under Parts I and II above work under the directions of the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha and Speaker, Lok Sabha respectively.

### **Composition**

Till 13th Lok Sabha, each of these Standing Committees used to consist of 45 members - nominated by the Speaker from amongst the members of Lok Sabha and 15 members nominated by the Chairpersons, Rajya Sabha from amongst the member of Rajya Sabha. However, with re-structuring of DRSCs in July, 2004 each DRSC consist of 31 members - 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha. The representation of different Parties/Groups in these

Committees is in proportion to their strength in both the Houses of Parliament. Compared to the other Parliamentary Committees, the large membership in these Committees is meant to ensure greater participation of a maximum number of members in deliberation of policies, programmes, plans and projects and their implementation by the Government.

### **Appointment of Chairperson**

The Chairperson of each of the Standing Committees specified in Part I is appointed by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha and in respect of Committees specified in Part II by the Speaker, Lok Sabha from amongst the members of the Committee.

### **Minister not to be a Member of the Committee**

A Minister is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any of the Standing Committees and if a member, after his/her nomination to any of the Standing Committees, is appointed a Minister, he or she ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of each Standing Committee is one year from the date of its constitution.

### **Appointment of Sub-Committees/Study Groups**

The Chairperson of a Committee may appoint Study Groups/Sub-Committees from amongst the members of the respective Committees with a view to making detailed study/examination of the subject (s) selected by them, scrutinising the Action Taken replies of the Government on the recommendations contained in the previous reports and for considering procedural and general matters.

### **Association of Technical Experts/Consultants etc.**

The Standing Committees may also, if necessary, avail of the expert opinion or the public opinion before preparing the report.

### **Other Provisions**

Except for the matters for which special provisions have been made in the rules relating to the Standing Committees, the general rules applicable to other Parliamentary Committees in Rajya Sabha shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to Standing Committees specified in Part I of the Fifth Schedule and the general rules applicable to other Parliamentary Committees in Lok Sabha shall apply to Standing Committees as specified in Part II of the said Schedule.



### Functions of DRSCs

The functions of each of the Standing Committees are as follows:—

- (a) to consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/ Departments and make a report on the same to the Houses. The report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions;
- (b) to examine such Bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries/ Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha, as the case may be, and make reports thereon;
- (c) to consider annual reports of Ministries/Departments and make reports thereon; and
- (d) to consider national basic long term policy documents presented to the Houses, if referred to the Committee by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha, as the case may be, and make reports thereon.

The Standing Committees do not consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the concerned Ministries/Departments. These Committees also do not generally consider the matters which are under consideration by other Parliamentary Committees.

The Standing Committees also do not consider the Public Undertakings as they exclusively fall within the jurisdiction of Committee on Public Undertakings.

### Procedure relating to examination of Demands for Grants

Prior to 1993, due to paucity of time the Demands for Grants of very few Ministries used to be discussed/examined by the Parliament. With the setting up of DRSCs the long felt objective of an institutional arrangement to ensure effective scrutiny of the Demands for Grants of all the Ministries/Departments has been fulfilled to a great extent.

The procedure to be followed by each Standing Committee during the consideration and preparation of report on the Demands for Grants is as follows:

- (a) after the general discussion on the Budget in the House is over, the Houses shall be adjourned for a fixed period;
- (b) the Committees shall consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries during the aforesaid period;

- (c) the Committees shall make their report within the period and shall not ask for more time;
- (d) the Demands for Grants shall be Considered by the House in the light of the reports of the Committees; and
- (e) there shall be a separate report on the Demands for Grants of each Ministry.

### **Procedure relating to consideration of Bills**

One of the functions of DRSCs is to examine Bills. The Standing Committees are now examining almost all Bills pertaining to their Ministries/Departments when referred to them by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha after they are introduced in the House.

The procedure relating to examination and reporting on Bills by DRSCs is as follows:—

- (a) the Committee shall consider the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to them and make report thereon;
- (b) the Committee shall consider only such Bills introduced in either of the Houses as are referred to them by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, Lok Sabha, as the case may be; and
- (c) the Committee shall make report on the Bills in the given time.

During the period to Twenty-one years (1993-94 to May, 2014) as many as 527 Bills were referred to DRSCs out of which reports on 476 Bills were adopted and presented to the Houses. Even though the recommendations of the DRSCs are only of persuasive value, the new system has helped in having a detailed and indepth analysis of various provisions contained in the Bills.

### **Long Term Government Policy Documents**

DRSCs also examine long term policy documents of the Government as and when referred to them by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker; Lok Sabha as the case may be. The Standing Committees have so far scrutinised and presented their reports to Parliament on the following national long-term policies:—

1. Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution, 1992
2. National Agriculture Policy
3. New Telecom Policy, 1999
4. National Drug Policy
5. National Housing Policy

## **Annual Reports/Subjects**

The DRSCs, besides examining and preparing reports on Demands for Grants, Bills and Policy documents also take up for scrutiny, the Annual Reports/Subjects based on Annual Reports pertaining to their respective Ministries/Departments. During the period April, 1993 to May, 2014 DRSCs presented 587 reports on Annual Reports and subjects based on them.

## **Reports and Minutes**

The conclusions of each of the Standing Committees on a subject examined are contained in its report, which after its adoption by the respective Committee and factual verification by the Ministry concerned, is presented by the concerned Chairperson to the respective Houses. Minutes of the sittings of the Committee are laid on the Table of the House along with the relevant reports.

The reports of the Standing Committees are based on broad consensus amongst the members. However, a member of the Committee may give a note of dissent on the report which shall be presented to the House along with the report.

## **Action Taken Reports**

The reports of the Standing Committees have persuasive value and are treated as considered advice given by the Committee. The Demands for Grants and Bills are considered by the House in the light of the reports of the Committees. In respect of reports on Demands for Grants and other subjects the Ministry of Department concerned is requested to take action on the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report and furnish action taken replies thereon within three months.

Action taken notes received from the Ministries/Departments are examined by the Committee and Action Taken Reports thereon are presented to the House.

## **Statement by Ministry on Committee Reports**

The Minister, with regard to the Ministry concerned, shall make once in six months a statement in the House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committees of Lok Sabha.

## **Laying of Action Taken Statements**

While forwarding the Action Taken Report to the Government, the Ministry concerned shall be asked to furnish as early as possible statement of action taken or proposed to be taken by them on the recommendations contained in

Chapter I and final replies to the recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Action Taken Report. The replies so received shall be consolidated in the form of a "Statement" and after Chairperson's approval, laid on the Table of House.

#### **DRSCs at work**

During the Tenth Lok Sabha, 17 Standing Committees presented as many as 422 Reports on Demands for Grants, Bills, Policies and Annual Reports/ Subjects. Of these, 309 were Original Reports and 113 Action Taken Reports.

During the Eleventh Lok Sabha, 17 Standing Committees presented as many as 204 Reports on Demands for Grants, Bills, Policies and Annual Reports/ subjects. Of these, 154 were Original Reports and 50 Action Taken Reports.

During the Twelfth Lok Sabha, 17 Standing Committees presented as many as 241 Reports on Demands for Grants, Bills, Policies and Annual Reports. Of these, 161 were Original Reports and 80 Action Taken Reports.

During the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, 17 Standing Committees presented as many as 787 Reports on Demands for Grants, Bills, Policies and Annual Reports. Of these, 463 were Original Reports and 324 Action Taken Reports.

During the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, 24 Standing Committees presented as many as 1036 Reports on Demands for Grants, Bills, Policies and Annual Reports. Of these 622 were Original Reports and 414 Action Taken Reports.

During the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, 24 Standing Committees presented as many as 1017 Reports on Demands for Grants, Bills, Policies and Annual Report. Of these 590 were Original Reports and 427 Action Taken Reports .