**Political Science**

**Applied Course 2, Semester IV**

**Legislative Support**

**Course objective:** 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 and expose them to real life legislative work. These will be, 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. It will also deepen their understanding and appreciation of the political process and indicate the possibilities of making it work for democracy.

I. **Powers and functions of people’s representative at different tiers of governance** **(6 lectures)**

Members of Parliament, State legislative assemblies, functionaries of rural and urban local self government from ZilaParishad, Municipal Coporation to Panchayat/ward.

**II.** **Supporting the legislative process (2 lectures)**

How a bill becomes law, role of the Standing committee in reviewing a bill, legislative consultants, the framing of rules and regulations.

**III.** **Supporting the Legislative Committees** **(6 lectures)**

Types of committees, role of committees in reviewing government finances, policy, programmes, and legislation.

**IV. Reading the Budget Document** **(6 lectures)**

Overview of Budget Process, Role of Parliament in reviewing the Union Budget, Railway Budget, Examination of Demands for Grants of Ministries, Working of Ministries.

**V. Support in media monitoring and communication (4 lectures)**

Types of media and their significance for legislators; Basics of communication in print and electronic media.

**I. Powers and functions of people’s representative at different tiers of governance**

Essential readings:

M. Madhavan, and N.Wahi (2008) *Financing of Election Campaigns* PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, Available at, <http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/conference/Campaign_finance_brief.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

S. Vanka, (2008) *Primer on MPLADS,* Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, Available at <http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/primers/mplads-487/>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

H. Kalra, (2011) *Public Engagement with the Legislative Process* PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, Available at <http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Public%20Engagement%20with%20the%20Legislative%20Process.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

Government of India (*Lok Sabha* Secretariat), (2009) *Parliamentary Procedures (Abstract Series****)***, Available at <http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/abstract/index.aspx>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

**II.** **Supporting the legislative process**

Essential Readings:

Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs), (2009) *Legislation, Parliamentary Procedure,*Available at <http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-09.htm>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

Government of India, (Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs) (2009), *Subordinate Legislation*, *Parliamentary Procedure,*Available at <http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-11.htm> Accessed: 19.04.2013

D. Kapur and P. Mehta, (2006) ‘The Indian Parliament as an Institution of Accountability’, *Democracy, Governance and Human Rights,* Programme Paper Number 23, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Available at <http://www.unrisd.org/UNRISD/website/document.nsf/240da49ca467a53f80256b4f005ef245/8e6fc72d6b546696c1257123002fcceb/$FILE/KapMeht.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

O. Agarwal and T. Somanathan, (2005) ‘Public Policy Making in India: Issues and Remedies’, Available at <http://www.cprindia.org/admin/paper/Public_Policy_Making_in_India_14205_TV_SOMANATHAN.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

B. Debroy, (2001) ‘Why we need law reform’ *Seminar* January.

**III. Supporting the Legislative Committees**

Essential Readings:

P. Mehta, ‘India’s Unlikely Democracy: The Rise of Judicial Sovereignty’, *Journal of Democracy,* Vol. 18(2), pp.70-83.

**Government links:** <http://loksabha.nic.in/>; [http://rajyasabha.nic.in/](http://loksabha.nic.in/); <http://mpa.nic.in/>

K. Sanyal, (2011) *Strengthening Parliamentary Committees* PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, Available at <http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%202011/Strengthening%20Parliamentary%20Committees.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

**IV. Reading the Budget Document**

Essential Readings

A. Celestine, (2011) *How to read the Union Budget* PRS, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, Available at <http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/primers/how-to-read-the-union-budget-1023/>, Accessed: 19.04.2013

**V. Support in media monitoring and communication**

Essential Readings

G. Rose, (2005)How to be a media darling: there's no getting away from it [*State Legislatures*](http://law-journals-books.vlex.com/source/state-legislatures-2840), [Vol. 31(3).](http://law-journals-books.vlex.com/source/state-legislatures-2840/issue_nbr/%2331%233)

Additional Readings:

N. Jayal and P. Mehta (eds), (2010) *The Oxford Companion to Politics in India,* Oxford University Press: New Delhi,

B. Jalan, (2007) *India’s Politics,*  New Delhi: Penguin.

Initiating Discussion on Various Type of Debates in *Rajya Sabha*, available at <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/publication_electronic/75RS.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Praxis of Parliamentary Committees: Recommendations of Committee on Rules* published by *Rajya Sabha,* available at <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/publication_electronic/Praxis.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

S.J. Phansalkar, Policy Research in the Indian Context

N. Singh, ‘Some Economic Consequences of India’s Institutions of Governance: A Conceptual Framework’, available at <http://econ.ucsc.edu/faculty/boxjenk/wp/econ_conseq_2003_rev2.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

R. Guha, (2007), *India After Gandhi*, Macmillan: New Delhi.

*Parliamentary Procedures (Abstract Series)* published by *Lok Sabha*, available at <http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/abstract/index.aspx>, website: [www.loksabha.nic.in](http://www.loksabha.nic.in), Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Committees of Lok Sabha*, available at <http://164.100.47.134/committee/committee_list.aspx> Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Ethics Committee of Rajya Sabha*, available at <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/publication_electronic/ethics_committee.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Committees of Parliament, Parliamentary Procedure, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs*, available at <http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-12.htm>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Nomination of Members of Parliament on Committees, Councils, Boards and Commissions, etc., set up by the Government, Ministry of Parliament Affairs*, available at <http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-14.htm>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Parliamentary Procedures: Problems and Perspectives 2009 Published* by *Rajya Sabha*, available at <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/rsnew/publication_electronic/parl_procedure2009.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Primer on the Budget Process* published by PRS, available at <http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/primers/the-budget-process-484/>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Background note on Financial Oversight by Parliament* published by PRS, available at <http://www.prsindia.org/administrator/uploads/media/Conference%20note/Conference%20note%20on%20financial%20oversight.pdf>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

P. Keefer  and S Khemani, (2009) ‘When Do Legislators Pass On"Pork"? The Determinants of Legislator Utilization of a Constituency Development Fund in India’, in *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series* 4929, pp. 1-45, available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1405160>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

*Parliamentary Procedures (Abstract Series)*, *Lok Sabha*, available at <http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/abstract/process.htm>

*Budget, Parliamentary Procedure, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs*, available at <http://mpa.nic.in/Manual/Manual_English/Chapter/chapter-07.htm>, Accessed: 19.04.2013.

http://mpa.nic.in/mpahandbook/parlia13.pdf

**No of classes required to complete the unit (approx.):**

I. **Powers and functions of people’s representative at different tiers of governance** **(6 lectures)**

Members of Parliament, State legislative assemblies, functionaries of rural and urban local self government from ZilaParishad, Municipal Coporation to Panchayat/ward.

**II.** **Supporting the legislative process (2 lectures)**

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**V. Support in media monitoring and communication (4 lectures)**

Types of media and their significance for legislators; Basics of communication in print and electronic media.

**Methodology of Teaching:**

1. Close readings of Texts/articles
2. Movie screening related to the topic
3. Debate and presentation
4. Use of power point, and projector
5. Discussion based participatory teaching
6. Discussion on the Indian political thought and the renaissance period and how Ambedkar stands in the political discourse of the world in general and in India in particular.
7. Students are assigned one individual topics to prepare brief assignment in their own languages and present in the class.
8. Translation of English readings whose Hindi version is not available is also encouraged and mentored.
9. Students are provided with additional readings and question answer sessions to discuss conceptual and factual knowledge.
10. Film screening on the ideas pertaining to Ambedkar’s thought is also forms the part of teaching this course.
11. Classroom examination is also held to examine and monitor and emphasise on the learning and reflective mode of the students.

**Criteria of Assessment:**

**ASSESSMENT**

**Tentative date of assessments/ assignments (time frame):**

One month teaching followed by assignment, test and presentation in the interval of every 20 days. For each assignment, test and presentation 10 days are given to the students for preparation. Final results are submitted at the end of the semester.

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| **Assignments/assessment 2015** | | | |
| S. No. | Assessment | Topic | Marks |
| 1 | Assignment-1 | Ambedkar on History and Society | 4 |
| 2 | Assignment-2 | Constitution | 4 |
| 3 | Test-1 | Rise and Fall of High Caste women | 3 |
| 4 | Test-2 | Economy | 3 |
| 5 | Presentation-1 | Origin of Caste | 3 |
| 6 | Presentation-2 | Nationalism | 3 |

**Criteria of Assessment:**

Following criteria are used for assessment:

1. conceptual clarity
2. language skill to present the work
3. form of presentation or writing
4. Participation in the classroom.
5. Attendance in the classroom

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Learning and Evaluation** | | |
| S. No. | Activities | Action |
|  | Use of ICT | Google classroom, Youtube links and PPT presentations. |
|  | Teaching Plan | Shared and discussed |
|  | Various Pedagogies | * Group discussion and group assignments given on ‘Parliamentary system and functions of MPs |
|  | Investigative Projects | Students are given the topic individual topics to write assignment and present in the class. |
|  | Mentorship and Tutorial | Tutorial as a space used for diverse learning, political issues and course related query. Target has been to improve the cognitive faculty of the students. |
|  | Any other | Students are encouraged for mentorship and tutorials pertaining to any issue of their concerns |