**Parliamentary Committees of India**

A Parliamentary Committee is a panel of MPs that is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. The committee works under the direction of the Speaker/chairman and it presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/chairman.

They draw their authority from Article 105(deals with the privileges of MPs) and Article 118 (deals with any subject related to these committees).

**Aim of forming Parliamentary Committee:**

The aim of forming parliamentary committees is to provide systematic oversight, in-depth examination, and accountability of government actions, legislation, policies, and finances, ensuring transparency and effective governance.

**Functions of the Parliamentary Committees:**

1. ***Examination of Legislation***: Standing committees examine proposed bills and legislation in detail. They review the content, implications, and potential impact of these bills, making recommendations for amendments or improvements.
2. ***Oversight of Government Actions***: Standing committees provide systematic oversight of government actions, policies, and programs. They review and analyze the performance and functioning of various government departments and agencies to ensure they are working efficiently and effectively.
3. ***Review of Budget and Expenditures***: Standing committees play a crucial role in reviewing government expenditures. They focuses on scrutinizing government financial transactions and budget estimates to ensure that public funds are spent judiciously and in accordance with approved budgets.
4. ***Investigation and Inquiry***: Standing committees, including Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) and advisory Committees, are formed to investigate specific issues, incidents, or scandals. They conduct inquiries, gather evidence, and make recommendations for corrective action.
5. ***Policy Formulation and Review:*** Some standing committees are responsible for reviewing government policies and programs. They assess their effectiveness and make recommendations for improvements or changes to better serve the interests of the citizens.

**Types of Parliamentary committees**

There are two types of Parliamentary Committees– 1) Standing Committees and 2) Ad Hoc Committees.

**1) Standing Committees**

The Parliamentary standing committee is a type of parliamentary committee. It is a **permanent committee** (constituted every year or periodically). They work regularly and are formed by Acts of Parliament. Standing Committees can be classified into the following six categories:

1. **Financial Committees**: The financial committees are divided into six parts
2. Public Accounts Committee

The PAC was set up in 1921. **They examine the annual reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India(PYQ). They consist of 22 members, 15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha**. And elected by two houses **for 1 year**. Also, the chairman is the appointment by the speaker from the opposition party.

1. Estimate Committees

They were set up in 1950. **It works to check annual budget estimates to report the efficiency of the existing economic policies.** It consists of **30 members (PYQ)**, and Lok Sabha elected them for one year. The ruling party elects the chairman by the speaker of the Lok Sabha.

1. Committee on Public Undertakings

They were set up in 1964. **The works of this committee to check reports of the Public Undertakings**. They analyze the reports of the CAG on public undertakings. They consist of **22 members**, 15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha. The two houses elected them for one year. And the chairman is elected by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

1. Departmental Standing Committees

The Departmental Standing committee is **24**. The 16 are under the jurisdiction of the speaker of the Lok Sabha, and 8 are under the jurisdiction of the speaker of the Rajya Sabha. Each has 31 members ( 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha). **They check the bills of the concerned ministry. And work on annual reports of the ministries and the demand for grants of the concerned ministries.**

1. **Committees To Enquire**

The parliamentary committees of India under Committees to inquire have three parts:- Committee on Petitions, Committee of Privilege, Committee on Ethics

1. **Committees to Scrutinize and Control:**

The parliamentary committees of India under the Committees to Scrutinize and Control has been divided into six parts:- Committee on government assurance, Committee on subordinate Legislation, Committee on Papers laid on the table, Committee on the welfare of SC’s and ST’s, Committee on Empowerment of Women, Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

**d) Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House:**

The Committees relating to the day-to-day business of the House are categories into four parts:-Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions, Business Advisory Committee, Committee on the absence of members, Rules Committee

1. **House-Keeping Committees or Service Committees**: The parliamentary committees of India under housekeeping committees or service committees are divided into four parts:- House Committee, Library Committee, Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members, General Purposes Committee.
2. Others committees

**2) Ad Hoc Committees:**

The Ad Hoc Committees are **temporary** and cease to exist on completion of the task assigned to them. These are temporary committees created for specific purposes or issues, and they cease to exist once they have fulfilled their objectives. **The principal Ad hoc Committees are the Select and Joint Committees on Bills.** Ad hoc committees may include: a) Inquiry Committees and b) Advisory Committees.

1. **Inquiry Committees** or Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) **(PYQ):** Formed to investigate specific issues, such as financial irregularities or major scandals. Some examples of Inquire committees are:- Joint Committee on Bofors Contract, Joint Committee on Fertilizer Pricing
2. **Advisory Committees**: The Advisory committees are an appointment for matters related to bills. They are directed by the speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha and follow the rules of procedure. When bills pass in either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, they refer to the select committee.

**Qs. Examine the role of the standing committee in reviewing bills in the parliament.10**

**Or**

**Discuss the merits of standing Committees. *10***

Standing committees in the Indian Parliament play a crucial role in the review and scrutiny of bills. Their involvement is an essential part of the legislative process, and they contribute significantly to the quality and effectiveness of legislation. Here's an examination of the role of standing committees in reviewing bills in the Parliament:

1. **In-depth Examination**: Standing committees conduct a detailed and thorough examination of bills referred to them. This includes analyzing the bill's provisions, objectives, and potential impact. This in-depth review ensures that bills are well-drafted and free from errors or ambiguities.

2. **Specialization:** Committees often consist of members with expertise in specific areas. This specialization allows for a more informed assessment of bills related to their domain, leading to better legislative outcomes.

3. **Public Consultation:** Many standing committees invite input from the public, stakeholders, and experts. They may conduct public hearings to gather diverse perspectives on the bill, ensuring that the legislation takes into account a wide range of opinions and concerns.

4. **Amendments and Recommendations**: Committees have the authority to propose amendments to bills. They may suggest changes to improve the bill, address potential loopholes, or make it more effective in achieving its intended objectives.

5. **Quality Control**: By reviewing bills, committees act as a quality control mechanism. They help identify and rectify potential issues, errors, or unintended consequences in legislation, contributing to better lawmaking.

6. **Stakeholder Engagement**: Committees engage with various stakeholders affected by the bill, seeking their insights and addressing their concerns. This engagement process promotes inclusivity and ensures that the legislation is balanced and fair.

7. **Report Preparation**: After thorough examination, committees prepare detailed reports that include their findings, recommendations, and proposed amendments. These reports are presented to Parliament for further discussion and consideration.

8. **Debate and Approval**: The bill, along with the committee's report, is debated in Parliament. The committee's recommendations and proposed amendments are discussed, and members may vote on the bill based on these considerations.

9. **Accountability and Transparency:** The involvement of standing committees adds an extra layer of accountability and transparency to the legislative process. The public can access committee reports and see how and why certain changes were proposed.

10. **Improved Legislation:** The rigorous scrutiny of bills by standing committees helps ensure that legislation is well thought out and serves the best interests of the public. It reduces the likelihood of hasty or flawed laws being passed.

It can be said that standing committees in the Indian Parliament have a vital role in reviewing bills. Their specialized focus, public consultation, and amendment proposals contribute to a more comprehensive, informed, and balanced legislative process. Their work enhances the quality of laws, strengthens the democratic principles of accountability and transparency, and ensures that legislation is effective and fair.

**Qs. Discuss the necessity of Parliamentary Committees. 10**

Parliamentary committees are a necessary and integral part of any parliamentary system, including in India. They serve several important purposes that contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the government and the legislature. Following are some of the key reasons why parliamentary committees are necessary:

1. **In-depth Examination**: Parliamentary committees provide a forum for in-depth examination of various issues, including proposed legislation, government policies, and programs. This allows for a comprehensive analysis that may not be possible during regular parliamentary sessions.

2. **Specialization**: Committees are often composed of members with expertise in specific areas, ensuring that complex subjects are reviewed and evaluated by individuals who understand the nuances of those subjects.

3. **Efficiency**: By dividing the workload among committees, Parliament can handle a broader range of issues simultaneously. This leads to more efficient governance and lawmaking.

4. **Public Engagement:** Some committees hold public hearings, allowing citizens, experts, and stakeholders to contribute their opinions and provide valuable insights. This promotes citizen engagement and ensures that policies and decisions are well-informed and inclusive.

5**. Expert Recommendations**: Committees can consult experts and specialists, seeking their advice and recommendations on various matters. This leads to more informed decision-making and policies that are based on the best available knowledge.

6. **Scrutiny of Budget**: Committees like the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee play a crucial role in ensuring that public funds are spent wisely and in accordance with budgetary allocations.

7. **Conflict Resolution**: Committees can serve as forums for resolving disputes, conducting impartial investigations, and finding consensus on contentious issues, contributing to a harmonious and constructive functioning of the government.

8. **Review of Executive Actions**: Committees help ensure that the executive branch follows the laws and policies set by the legislature. This separation of powers is fundamental to a democratic system and prevents abuses of power.

It can be said that parliamentary committees are necessary for ensuring good governance, transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making in a democratic system. They provide a structured and organized mechanism for scrutinizing government actions, debating policies, and involving the public in the legislative process. Their role in the legislative process is crucial for the functioning of a healthy democracy.

**Qs. Discuss the role of public accounts committee of the parliament of India.10**

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is one of the most important parliamentary committees in India, and its primary role is to examine and scrutinize the government's financial transactions and ensure financial accountability. The PAC plays a crucial role in overseeing government expenditures and ensuring that public funds are used judiciously and in accordance with the approved budgets. The role of the Public Accounts Committee in the Parliament of India discuss below:

1. **Examination of Government Expenditures:** The PAC thoroughly examines the government's expenditures to ensure that they are made in compliance with the approved budget allocations and relevant laws. It reviews financial transactions, invoices, and other financial documents to detect any irregularities or misuse of funds.

2. **Audit Reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG):** The PAC relies heavily on the audit reports prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). The CAG audits various government departments and agencies and submits reports to the PAC, which uses these reports as a basis for its examination.

3. **Report and Recommendations:** After a detailed examination, the PAC prepares a report that includes its findings, observations, and recommendations. These reports are then presented to Parliament for discussion and debate.

4. **Ensuring Accountability**: The PAC plays a vital role in holding the government accountable for its financial actions and decisions. By scrutinizing expenditures and financial transactions, it ensures that government officials are answerable for their use of public funds.

5. **Preventing Financial Irregularities**: The PAC's work helps prevent financial irregularities, fraud, and mismanagement of public funds. By identifying discrepancies and irregularities in government expenditures, it promotes transparency and deters malpractices.

6. **Parliamentary Oversight**: The PAC provides a parliamentary check on the executive branch of government. It ensures that the government adheres to the fiscal discipline and follows proper financial procedures in its operations.

7. **Examination of Policy Implementation**: While the primary focus is on financial aspects, the PAC also assesses the effectiveness of government policies and programs by evaluating the outcomes and impact of public spending.

8. **Public Awareness**: The PAC's reports and discussions in Parliament contribute to public awareness and transparency regarding government finances and the utilization of taxpayer money.

9. **Continuous Oversight**: The PAC operates continuously and reviews government financial transactions on an ongoing basis. This continuous oversight is crucial for maintaining financial accountability.

10. **Non-partisan Approach**: The PAC is a non-partisan committee, and its members work collectively to ensure accountability. It typically includes members from various political parties to maintain impartiality.

The Public Accounts Committee in the Indian Parliament plays a pivotal role in ensuring the responsible use of public funds, maintaining financial accountability, and preventing financial irregularities in government operations. It upholds the principles of transparency, checks and balances, and good governance in the country.