

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas came into being w.e.f. 05.08.2004 as a result of bifurcation of the erstwhile Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals. The erstwhile Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals was constituted for the first time on 08.04.1993.

#### ***Constitution***

The Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas is one of the 24 Departmentally Related Standing Committees. It is serviced by Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Committee consists of 31 Members, i.e., 21 Members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha from amongst Members of Lok Sabha and 10 Members from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha from amongst Members of Rajya Sabha. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Lok Sabha Members of the Committee. A Minister is not eligible to be nominated as a member of any DRSC and if a member after his nomination to the Committee is appointed a Minister he shall cease to be member of the Committee from the date of such appointment. The term of office of the Committee is one year from the date of its constitution.

#### ***Functions***

The Committee have been entrusted with the following functions:

- (a) to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and make reports on the same to the Houses;
- (b) to examine the bills referred to the Committee by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha relating to the above Ministry, and make report thereon;
- (c) to consider the Annual Report of the Ministry 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.

### ***Working Procedure relating to consideration of Demands for Grants***

Every year, after the general discussion on the Budget in the House is over, the Houses are adjourned for a fixed period. The Committee consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry under their jurisdiction during the aforesaid period and submit their report within the given time frame. The Demands for Grants are considered by the House in the light of the Report of the Committee.

### ***Procedure Relating to Consideration of Bills.***

The Committee consider only such Bills introduced in either of the Houses as are referred to them by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be. The Committee consider the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to them and make Reports thereon within the given timeframe.

### ***Examination of Annual Reports***

Besides consideration of Demands for Grants and the Bills referred to them, the Committee may select other subjects for examination on the basis of Annual Report of the Ministry within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

### ***Reports and Minutes***

The Observations/Recommendations of the Committee on subjects examined are contained in their Reports which after adoption by the Committee and factual verification (of Narration portion only) by the Ministry concerned, are presented by the Chairperson and authorised Members to the respective Houses. Minutes of sittings of the Committee are also presented to the Houses along with Reports. The Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas have presented 115 Reports\* upto 16th Lok Sabha.

### ***Action Taken Reports***

In respect of Reports on Demands for Grants and other subjects, the Ministry concerned is required to take action on the Recommendations contained in the Report and furnish action taken replies thereon, within three months from the date of

presentation of the Report. Action Taken notes received from the Ministry is examined by the Committee and Action Taken Reports thereon are presented to the Houses.

### ***Laying of Action Taken Statements***

Replies received from the Government in respect of Recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies to the Recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Action Taken Reports are also laid on the Tables of both the Houses in the form of Statements.

### ***Statements made by the Minister under Direction 73A***

In terms of Direction 73A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Minister concerned shall make a statement once in six months in the House regarding the status of implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Reports of the Departmentally-related Standing Committees with regard to his Ministry. This is to ensure that the Recommendations of the Standing Committees are taken note of at the highest level by the Government for follow up action.

List of the Chairpersons of Standing Committee since its inception in 2004

1. Shri N. Janardhana Reddy (August, 2004 to February, 2009)
2. Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli (August, 2009 to May, 2014)
3. Shri Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi (September, 2014 to May, 2019)
4. Shri Ramesh Bidhuri (September, 2019 to Till date)

**\* It includes the Reports of erstwhile Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals and the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas.**