



Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training



Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training

Established in 1976 as an integral Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) is the premier training body providing opportunities for systematic study and training in various disciplines of parliamentary institutions, processes and procedures to the Legislators and Parliamentary officials.

Ever since its inception, BPST has been organising various Training Programmes in parliamentary and legislative fields, with a view to imparting professionalism, expertise and orientation to those who are involved in the working of the parliamentary system.

The Bureau's activities include holding of Orientation Programmes and Seminars for Members of Parliament and State Legislatures; Lecture Series for Members of Parliament; Round Table Discussions on Parliamentary themes; Computer Awareness Programmes for Members; Familiarization Programmes/Seminars for Media Persons; Training and Refresher Courses for Officers of the Secretariats of Parliament and State Legislatures; and Appreciation Courses for Probationers of All India and Central Services and for Senior and Middle Level Officers of the Government of India.

The Bureau conducts every year two International Training Programmes for foreign parliamentary officials, viz. 'Parliamentary Internship Programme' and 'International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting'.

In addition, the Bureau organises short duration Study Visits for Members of foreign Parliaments, government officials, scholars, students and others. It also conducts Attachment Programmes for parliamentarians and parliamentary/government officials of foreign countries. Further, the BPST has been entrusted with the task of conducting the Lok Sabha Internship Programme which was launched in January 2008.

The Bureau functions under the overall control and supervision of the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha. Housed in the Parliament Library Building, the Bureau has state-of-the-art infrastructure and training equipment.

Orientation Programmes for Members of Parliament/State Legislatures

With a view to familiarising the newly-elected Members of Parliament and State Legislatures with the intricacies of the parliamentary practices and procedures, the Bureau organises Orientation Programmes for them. Each Programme is about a week's duration. These Programmes seek to promote a proper appreciation of the constitutional role and position of the Parliament and the State Legislatures as representative institutions, familiarise the Members more closely with the parliamentary traditions and etiquette and help them in making the best and most effective use of the precious time of the House for more informed and fruitful discussions. Eminent parliamentarians, senior parliamentary officials and experts are invited to hold discussions on various aspects of parliamentary practices and procedures.

Lecture Series for Members

The BPST has been organising a Lecture Series for Members of Parliament by domain experts and specialists on subjects of topical interest since 2005. These Lectures help them in gaining valuable insights into the subjects under discussion. Experts, including from various international bodies, have shared their views with Members through these Lectures.

Prof. Hiren Mukerjee Memorial Annual Parliamentary Lecture

Starting 2008, an Annual Parliamentary Lecture in honour of the eminent parliamentarian Prof. Hiren Mukerjee has been instituted by the Lok Sabha. The Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 11 August 2008 on the theme, "Demands of Social Justice". Prof. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate and Founder/Managing Director of the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, delivered the 2nd Lecture on "Social Business: A Step towards creating a New

Economic and Social Order". The 3rd Lecture was delivered by Prof. Jagdish Bhagwati, Professor of Economics and Law at Columbia University and Senior Fellow in International Economics at the Council on Foreign Relations, USA, on "Indian Reforms: Yesterday and Today" on 2 December 2010. The 4th Lecture was delivered by His Excellency, Lyonchhen Jigmy Y. Thinley, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, on "Gross National Happiness: A Holistic Paradigm for Sustainable Well-being", on 20 December 2011.

Seminars/Workshops/Round Table Discussions for Members of Parliament/State Legislatures

The Bureau organises from time to time Seminars, Round Table Discussions and specialised Workshops on various topics of parliamentary importance which help the Members gain a deeper understanding of such issues.

Computer Awareness Programmes

The Bureau periodically organises Computer Awareness Programmes for Members of Parliament to assist them in discharging effectively their duties such as constituency management functions, office automation activities, personal information management, etc. Computer Awareness Programmes are also organised for officials of Lok Sabha as well as the personal staff of the Members.

Programmes for Foreign Parliamentarians/ Officials

Customised Attachment Programmes and Study Visits for Presiding Officers, parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from abroad are organised by the Bureau on request. The Programmes are *ad hoc* in nature and are especially tailor-made to suit the special requirements of the participants enabling them to have a first-hand knowledge of the working of parliamentary institutions in India.

International Training Programmes

The Bureau organises every year two International Training Programmes, *i.e.* the Parliamentary Internship Programme and the

International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting for foreign parliamentary/government officials. Participants are drawn from countries covered under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and the Special Commonwealth Africa Assistance Plan (SCAAP) which are funded by the Ministry of External Affairs. The Programmes are open to others also in case the sponsoring authority or the participants are prepared to meet the expenses on boarding, lodging, travel, etc.

The aim of the Parliamentary Internship Programme is to provide the participants an opportunity to exchange ideas in the context of their own experiences in their Legislatures and to make them aware of the environment, traditions, culture and working of parliamentary institutions in India. This Programme is of four weeks' duration and is organised in November every year.

The four-week long International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting is organised during February-March every year. The Programme is designed to equip parliamentary officials with the basic concepts, skills and techniques required for drafting legislation.

The Bureau has started organising programmes in foreign languages for the benefit of parliamentary officials from abroad. The first such programme, in Arabic language, for parliamentary officials from Arabic-speaking countries, was organized in April 2013. The Bureau also conducts a two-week long Training Programme in Legislative Drafting for officers of Union/State Governments and State Legislatures. Similar programmes of two weeks' duration, in Spanish, for participating officials from Spanish-speaking countries, was organised in September 2013.

Appreciation Courses for Probationers of All India and Central Services and Government Officials

The BPST regularly organises Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures of 3-5 days' duration for Probationers of All India and Central Services and middle and senior level officials of the Government of India.

These Courses provide to the participants the much needed direct exposure to the environment, culture and traditions of parliamentary institutions so as to enable them to appreciate better the nature of their role and place in the overall context of the parliamentary system, leading to a more informed response to their work in relation to Parliament.

Courses for Parliamentary and State Legislature Officials

To sharpen the functional skills of the officials working in the Secretariats of Parliament and State Legislatures, Foundation Courses, Refresher Courses and Specialised Courses are organised by the Bureau. These Courses, apart from specific themes, seek to develop the right attitude and qualities essential in parliamentary officials, like a sense of dedication in service, precision and promptness, objectivity of approach, highest respect for the representatives of the people and unfailing courtesy.

The Bureau also facilitates/coordinates customized programmes for officers and staff of the Secretariat in various training institutions in India and abroad, and Study Visits to foreign Parliaments.

Study Visits

The Bureau organises short duration Study Visits for officers of the Government and Legislature Secretariats as well as scholars and students, both from India and abroad. During such Study Visits, participants are given the requisite orientation to enable them to understand notable aspects of parliamentary institutions, followed by a visit to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Chambers, the Central Hall and the Parliament Museum. The Bureau also facilitates the participants to witness the proceedings of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, if the Houses are in session.

The BPST also organises call-on meetings with the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha by various stakeholders, including school, college/university students and others.

The Bureau also facilitates study visits to Parliament by school students from far-flung corners of the country.

Lok Sabha Internship Programme

The Lok Sabha Internship Programme was launched in January 2008. The objective of this one-year-long Internship Programme is to provide an opportunity to young men and women with outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements to acquaint themselves with the working of parliamentary democracy and democratic institutions in general and specifically about the Indian parliamentary system. The Programme aims at imparting the requisite skills and knowledge to enable five selected Interns to develop a proper perspective about the role of the Legislature in our parliamentary system which, in turn, would help them while working in their own chosen fields in future.

For further information, please visit BPST website at www.bpst.nic.in

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

MAY, 2014

LARRDIS/No. 20/1/2014/PPR-28

**Cover Photo: Main Lecture Hall of BPST in
Parliament Library Building*