Computerized
Information Service

Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

Computerized Information Service

In a parliamentary system, the representatives of the people need objective, factual and timely information. With this in view, the Parliament of India, over the years, has taken significant steps in developing Information Technology to assist parliamentarians in the effective discharge of their duties.

For the purpose of introducing automation in Parliament Library, the computer-based information retrieval system named Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS) was started in December 1985 with the help of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Since then, the Computer Centre, now renamed as Computer (HW&SW) Management Branch, has played a key role in the modernization and computerization not only of the Parliament Library but also of the entire Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The Parliament Library Information System was designed within the Library for the benefit of Members of Parliament. It was a database of subject index references to parliamentary information. Later, all the databases were converted into full text databases in Web format and were made available on the Parliament of India Home Page.

Information available on Parliament of India Home Page *(http://parliamentofindia.nic.in)*

The Parliament of India Home Page was inaugurated by the then President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, on 15 March 1996. In a very short period, the Home Page containing the information generated within the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha has become an important source of information and reference tool about the Constitution of India, history of Indian Parliament, its practices and procedures, proceedings of Constituent Assembly, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, profiles of Members of both Houses and their socio-economic background, etc. Separate websites of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are being maintained by the respective Secretariats and are linked on the Parliament of India Home Page.

The web page of Lok Sabha is periodically redesigned to facilitate easy access of

information to the users. The data released on the website is organized logically through user-friendly drop-down menus. Navigation of information across the pages is also available. The major components of parliamentary information now available on the Lok Sabha Home Page *(http://loksabha.nic.in)* are:—

   (i) **Members:** Contains alphabetical, State-wise, party-wise lists of Members, nominated Members, details of women Members, vacancies, contact addresses and e-mail addresses. Home Pages for each Member of the current Lok Sabha containing bio-data, participation in parliamentary proceedings, Questions, Bills and Resolutions, Member's attendance, etc. with various search options in the database are also available. Information pertaining to the consolidated list of Members (First to Fourteenth Lok Sabha) indicating Lok Sabha experience and biographical sketches of Members from the First Lok Sabha onwards too are available on the Home Page.

   (ii) **Business:** Contains information relating to the Business of the House, Bulletins, List of Private Members' Business, Special Mentions and Resume of Work done during each Session.

   (iii) **Questions:** Contains Ballot List, Questions List, Status of Notices of Questions, Text of Questions and Answers from February 2000 onwards/and Supplementary Questions and Answers from July 2000 onwards. Indexes to select Questions from 1985 to 1999 and statistical Statements relating to Questions of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha are also provided.

   (iv) **Debates:** Contains text of the daily Debates, Synopsis of Debates, Constituent Assembly Debates and Debates with various search facilities from March 1998 (12th Lok Sabha) onwards.

   (v) **Legislation:** Contains text of Government/ Private Members Bills introduced in

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Title-wise, Member/Ministry-wise, category-wise search options and List of Bills pending with Committees.

The text of debates held in Lok Sabha on a particular Bill and Gazette notifications of a Bill are also available.

(vi) **Committees:** Information on the Composition, Chairpersons, Membership, Subjects selected, Reports, Schedules, Bills Referred, Press Releases, etc. of all the Financial, Departmentally-related, Standing, *Ad hoc* and Inquiry Committees is available.

(vii) **Parliamentary Fora:** Information relating to the Parliamentary Fora is provided on the website.

(viii) **Conferences:** Information pertaining to Conferences organized, activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Cell and the India Group of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is provided.

(ix) **Secretariat:** Contains Organization Chart, Recruitment Rules, Recruitment results and Publications available on Sale, Tenders issued by Lok Sabha Secretariat, etc.

In addition, general information about Parliament, Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Directions by the Speaker, Government of India Manual on Parliamentary Work, Government Instructions on dealings with MPs and Virtual Tour of Parliament House and Parliament Library are available on the Home Page. Links to Legislative Bodies in India; Rajya Sabha; other Parliaments; Inter-Parliamentary Union; Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; President of India; Prime Minister; Ministries; States and Union Territories; Election Commission and Supreme Court and High Courts have also been provided under the icon Legislative Sites, Judicial/Legal Sites and Official Sites.

Lok Sabha Speaker's Website
(http://speakerloksabha.nic.in)

A separate Home Page has been developed for the Lok Sabha Speaker which, *inter alia,* contains the profile of the incumbent Speaker, political and personal achievements, role of the Speaker, events attended, speeches and Press Releases. Profiles of all the previous Speakers, along with their terms of office are also available in this site.

Parliament Museum Website
(http://parliamentmuseum.org)

The interactive website of the Parliament Museum was launched by the Speaker of Lok Sabha on 19 December 2007. The website tells the story of India's democratic heritage spanning over 2500 years. This story is woven with the help of walk-through period settings with sound-light-video animation, large-screen interactive computer multi-media, animatronics, impressive visualization with multi-screen panoramic projection. The user can take part in a quiz on Indian democracy, choose picture post-cards and e-mail and make suggestions or ask questions to the Museum.

Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) Website *(http://bpst.nic.in)*

This website contains information relating to Orientation Programmes, Lectures, Courses, Seminars for Members, Training Programmes, Lok Sabha Internship Programme and Study Visits/Tours for Government Officials. It also provides information relating to Appreciation Courses organized for Probationers of All India Services, International Training Programmes for Parliamentary and Government Officials, etc.

Lok Sabha Television Channel (LSTV) Website
(http://loksabhatv.nic.in)

Besides the 24-hour Lok Sabha TV webcast, its schedule and important video clippings are available on the Home Page.

Parliament Library Website
(http://164.100.47.134/plibrary/home.htm)

This website provides information relating to the Parliament Library collections, new additions

to the Library, E-Resources, and various services available to Members of Parliament.

Library related databases

The activities of *Parliament Library* have been automated by using an indigenously developed commercial software package 'LIBSYS'. The Library database can be accessed on Internet as well as on Intranet by Members of Parliament and other users of the Library.

(i) **Library Catalogue:** On-line access of catalogue provides information about documents (books/reports) added in the Parliament Library since 1992. Searches can be made by author, title, classification number, subject, keywords in title, keyword in context (KWIC) and their combination through Boolean logic.

(ii) **Serials Control:** Parliament Library is using LIBSYS software for Issue Management of the Serials since 2003 onwards. Inquiries can be made on title, periodicity and name of publisher; information about the latest journals can also be obtained.

(iii) **Parliamentary Documentation:** This Current Awareness Service (CAS) provides indexes to select books and articles from journals and newspapers of national and international organizations from January 1998 onwards. Information can be retrieved under different parameters like subject, period, author and publication. Until December 1988, selected articles were published in the *Documentation Fortnightly*; in 1989 this was renamed as *Parliamentary Documentation*. Its Hindi version *Sansadiya Pralekhan* was started in August 2008.

(iv) **Press Clippings Service:** This Service maintains a well classified collection of Press clippings of editorials, articles, important news-items and other information on different subjects. These clippings are taken from a representative collection of Hindi and English newspapers

published in the country. The Service has been computerized using 'eNewsNIC' software. Selected clippings on different subjects from various English and Hindi newspapers are scanned and keywords assigned. Information can be retrieved subject-wise, date-wise and newspaper-wise. On-line retrieval of Press clippings is available on the Parliament Library website.

(v) **Electronic Books:** *A Digital Library* of electronic publications on DVDs, CDs, tapes and floppies is being developed keeping in view the core areas of interest of Members of Parliament. The digital collections such as reference books, yearbooks, reports, atlases, e-journals, directories, etc. can be accessed either through Local Area Network (LAN) or at http://164.100.24.230.

Scheme of Financial Entitlement to Members of Lok Sabha for purchase of Computer Equipment

The Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Lok Sabha headed by the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha recommends computer hardware requirements of Members of Lok Sabha. Members have been provided facility to procure computer and other peripherals under the Financial Scheme for Purchase of Computer Hardware and Software which came into effect from 31st July 2009. Under the scheme, a Member of Lok Sabha, elected in General Elections or nominated by the President of India under Article 331 of the Constitution, is entitled to purchase computer hardware/software and other peripherals up to Rs. 2,00,000/- and those elected in by-elections/nominated by the President for less than three years are entitled to purchase computer items upto Rs. 1,50,000/-. However, purchase of e-Reader device shall be mandatory for a Member to avail the above financial entitlement. Maintenance and insurance charges of the computer hardware procured by the Member concerned, under the

scheme are to be borne by the Members themselves. The computer equipment purchased by the Members under the Scheme shall remain with them. However, they will have to deposit depreciated cost of the computer equipment as per prevailing Income Tax Rules when they cease to be a Member.

Members' Query Booth

A Members' Query Booth functions from Room No. G-127 of Parliament Library Building where Members submit the Proforma Invoice/bills for payment of amount to dealer or for reimbursement under the scheme of financial entitlement for purchase of computer equipment. Members are also guided about the use of e-Reader and installation of e-Reader applications in their devices.

Computer Hardware to Political Parties

As per provision of Computer Equipment (Legislature Party in Lok Sabha and Officers) Rules, 2009, Political Parties which have been allotted accommodation in Parliament House Complex shall be entitled to one Desktop, one UPS, one Printer and Internet Connection by the Secretariat. Maintenance of the computer hardware shall also be provided by the Secretariat. However, the cost of insurance and consumable items shall be borne by the Political Parties.

Intranet and E-mail Services

To facilitate sharing of data and to access Internet, a high speed Local Area Network (LAN) has been laid providing for high performance, high port density, fast Ethernet and gigabit Ethernet aggregation in all parts of the network, including access, distribution and backbone layers as well as the server farm and data centre environments. The independent Local Area Network of the three buildings and Reception Offices in Parliament Complex, is connected with each other through Optical Fibre Cables for providing high speed connectivity. The computer connectivity to outside world, including Internet,

is provided through the National Informatics Centre Network known as NICNET. A dedicated E-mail Messaging Service with the domain name (sansad.nic.in) is available to all Members of Parliament and Officers/Sections of the Secretariat.

Procurement and Maintenance of Computers

A number of computers and servers have been installed in the Lok Sabha Secretariat for efficient management of information. The Standing Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is constituted for technical examination of proposals and an Officers' Committee on Computerization in Lok Sabha Secretariat is constituted to discuss and recommend computer hardware requirements of various Offices/ Branches of the Secretariat. Necessary computer hardware are procured on the recommendations of the Committee.

The work of maintenance of the computers has been entrusted to a maintenance agency which has set up a Call Dispatch Centre in Parliament Complex to register the calls received from all Officers/Branches. The Call Despatch Centre also provides telephonic support for user's assistance.

Training

Training Programmes are organized periodically at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training for the benefit of MPs/Officials in acquiring knowledge and developing/sharpening their skills in various uses of Information Technology for parliamentary work.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

MAY, 2014

LARRDIS/No. 20/1/2014/PPR-22

*Cover Photo: Home Page of the Lok Sabha