



# Parliamentary Forums

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Lok Sabha Secretariat  
New Delhi

## Parliamentary Forums

During the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, on 12 May 2005, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha made an observation in the House relating to the constitution of a Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management to enable Members to discuss critical issues related to water in a structured manner and also to raise the issues more effectively in the House and during the meetings of the Committees. Afterwards, the Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management was constituted on 12 August 2005. Subsequently, four more Parliamentary Forums—on Children, Youth, Population and Public Health and Global Warming and Climate Change—were constituted in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

Upon the constitution of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha in May 2009, all these Parliamentary Forums were reconstituted on 21 January 2010. During the term of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, the Speaker of Lok Sabha constituted three more Parliamentary Forums—on Disaster Management (on 8 December 2011); Artisans and Craftspeople (on 26 April 2013); and Millennium Development Goals (on 11 December 2013)—thereby increasing the number of Parliamentary Forums to eight. Thus, the Fifteenth Lok Sabha had the following Forums:

1. Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management
2. Parliamentary Forum on Children
3. Parliamentary Forum on Youth
4. Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health
5. Parliamentary Forum on Global Warming and Climate Change
6. Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management
7. Parliamentary Forum on Artisans and Craftspeople
8. Parliamentary Forum on Millennium Development Goals

## Objectives

The objectives behind the constitution of various Parliamentary Forums are:

- to provide a platform to the members to have interaction with Ministers concerned, experts and key officials from the nodal Ministries with a view to have a focused and meaningful discussion on critical issues with a result-oriented approach for speeding up the implementation process;
- to sensitize the Members about the key areas of concern and also about the ground level situation and equip them with the latest information, knowledge, technical know-how and valuable inputs from experts both from the country and abroad for enabling them to raise these issues effectively on the Floor of the House(s) and in the meetings of various Parliamentary Committees; and
- to prepare a data-base on critical issues coming under the ambit of each Parliamentary Forum after culling out relevant information from different sources such as the Ministries concerned, United Nations, NGOs, Internet, Newspapers, etc. and circulation thereof to the Members so that they can meaningfully participate in the discussions held at the meeting of the Forums and seek clarifications from experts/officials from the Ministry present in the meetings.

The Parliamentary Forums do not interfere with or encroach upon the jurisdictions of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees or the Ministry/Department concerned.

## Composition

The guidelines of the respective Forum provide that the Speaker of Lok Sabha is the *ex officio* President of all the Parliamentary Forums, except the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health where the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the *ex officio* President and the

Speaker of Lok Sabha is the *ex officio* Co-President. Apart from the President, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Ministers concerned and Chairpersons of the respective Departmentally Related Standing Committee are *ex officio* Vice-Presidents of the Forum.

Each Forum consists of not more than 31 Members (excluding the President, Co-President and Vice-Presidents) out of whom not more than 21 are from Lok Sabha and not more than 10 are from Rajya Sabha.

Members other than the President and Vice-President of the Forums are nominated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha, and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, from amongst the Leaders of various Political Parties and Groups, or their nominees, who have special knowledge/keen interest in the subject.

Upto five Additional Vice-Presidents/Members, out of whom not more than 3 Members from Lok Sabha and 2 Members from Rajya Sabha, can be nominated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, as the case may be.

### **Appointment of Member-Convener**

The President of the Forum may appoint a Member-Convener for conducting regular, approved Programmes/Meetings of the Forum. In the case of the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health where the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the *ex officio* President and the Speaker of Lok Sabha is the *ex officio* Co-President, such Member-Convener may be appointed by the President/Co-President.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of Members of the Forum remains co-terminus with their membership in the respective Houses. A Member may also resign from the Forum by writing under one's own hand, addressed to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, or the Speaker of Lok Sabha, as the case may be.

### **Association of Experts**

Experts in the respective fields concerned with the subject matter of each of the Forums are associated as Special Invitees, who may share their views/present papers during the meetings/seminars of the Forum.

### **Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management**

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management are:

- to identify problems relating to water and make suggestions/recommendations for consideration and taking appropriate action by the Government/organizations concerned;
- to identify ways of involving Members of Parliament in conservation and augmentation of water resources in their respective States/Constituencies;
- to organise Seminars/Workshops to create awareness for conservation and efficient management of water; and
- to undertake such other related task as it may deem fit.

### **Parliamentary Forum on Children**

The functions of Parliamentary Forum on Children are:

- to enhance awareness and attention of Parliamentarians towards critical issues affecting children's well being so that they may provide due leadership to ensure their rightful place in the development process.
- to provide a platform to Parliamentarians to exchange ideas, views, experiences, expertise, practices in relation to children, in a structured manner, through Workshops, Seminars, Orientation Programmes, etc;
- to provide Parliamentarians an interface with civil society for highlighting children's issues including, *inter alia*, the Voluntary Sector, Media and Corporate Sector and thereby to foster effective strategic partnerships in this regard as well as to

enable Parliamentarians to interact in an institutionalized manner with specialized UN Agencies like UNICEF and other comparable multilateral Agencies on expert reports, studies, news and trend-analyses, etc., world-wide, which are germane to developments in the sector; and

- to undertake any other tasks, projects, assignments, etc. as the Forum may deem fit.

### **Parliamentary Forum on Youth**

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Youth are:

- to have focused deliberations on strategies to leverage human capital among the youth for accelerating development initiatives;
- to build greater awareness amongst public leaders and at the grass-root level on the potential of youth power for effecting socio-economic change;
- to interact on a regular basis with youth representatives and leaders, in order to better appreciate their hopes, aspirations, concerns and problems;
- to consider ways for improving Parliament's out-reach to different sections of youth, in order to reinforce their faith and commitment in democratic institutions and encourage their active participation therein; and
- to hold consultations with experts, national and international academicians and Government Agencies concerned on redesigning of public policy in the matter of youth empowerment.

### **Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health**

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health are:

- to have focused deliberations on strategies relating to population stabilization and matters connected therewith;

- to discuss and prepare strategies on issues concerning Public Health;
- to build greater awareness in all sections of the society, particularly at the grass-root level, regarding population control and public health; and
- to hold comprehensive dialogue and discussion in the matter of population and public health with experts at the National and International levels and to have interactions with the Multilateral Organizations like WHO, United Nations Population Fund, Academicians and Government Agencies concerned.

### **Parliamentary Forum on Global Warming and Climate Change**

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Global Warming and Climate Change are:

- to identify problems relating to Global Warming and Climate Change and make suggestions/recommendations for consideration and appropriate action by the Government/Organizations concerned to reduce the extent of Global Warming;
- to identify the ways of involving Members of Parliament to interact with specialists of National and International Bodies working on Global Warming and Climate Change with increased effort to develop new technologies to mitigate Global Warming;
- to organise seminars/workshops to create awareness about the causes and effects of Global Warming and Climate Change among the Members of Parliament;
- to identify the ways of involving Members of Parliament to spread awareness to prevent Global Warming and Climate Change; and
- to undertake such other related task as it may deem fit.

## **Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management**

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management are:

- to identify problems relating to Disaster Management and make suggestions/ recommendations for consideration and appropriate action by the Government/ Organizations concerned to reduce the effects of disasters;
- to identify the ways of involving Members of Parliament to interact with specialists of National and International Bodies working on Disaster Management with increased effort to develop new technologies to mitigate the effect of disasters;
- to organize seminars/workshops to create awareness about the causes and effects of disasters among the Members of Parliament;
- to identify the ways of involving Members of Parliament to spread awareness about disaster management; and
- to undertake such other related task as it may deem fit.

## **Parliamentary Forum on Artisans and Craftspeople**

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Artisans and Craftspeople are:

- to further enhance awareness and attention of Parliamentarians towards critical issues affecting artisans and craftspeople so as to preserve and promote traditional art and crafts through various mechanisms;
- to provide a platform to Parliamentarians to exchange ideas, views, experiences, expertise and best practices in relation to artisans and craftspeople, in a structured manner, through Workshops, Seminars, Orientation Programmes, etc;



- to provide Parliamentarians an interface with civil society for highlighting issues related to craftspeople and artisans, including *inter alia*, the Voluntary Sector, Media and Corporate Sector and thereby to foster effective strategic partnerships in this regard;
- to enable Parliamentarians to interact, in an institutionalized manner with representatives of various Union Ministries, Government Organizations like Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Coir Board, The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and other related Organizations/Bodies;
- to hold comprehensive dialogue and discussion on the matters relating to preservation of art and traditional craft and the promotion of artisans and craftspeople with experts/Organizations at the national and international levels; and
- to undertake any other tasks, Projects, Assignments, etc. as the Forum may deem fit.

### **Parliamentary Forum on Millennium Development Goals**

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Millennium Development Goals are:

- To review and enhance awareness and attention of Parliamentarians towards critical issues which have bearing on achievement of goals/targets set under Millennium Development Goals by 2015;
- To provide a platform to Parliamentarians to exchange ideas, views, experiences, expertise and best practices in relation to implementation of Millennium Development Goals in a structured manner, through Workshops, Seminars, Orientation Programmes, etc.;

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- To provide Parliamentarians an interface with civil society for highlighting issues related to Millennium Development Goals, viz. eradication of poverty; hunger; achievement of universal primary education; promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; reduction of child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS; Malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development;
  - To enable parliamentarians to interact, in an institutionalized manner with specialized UN Agencies and other comparable Multilateral Agencies, Expert Report, Studies, News and Trend-analyses, etc. regarding achievement of Millennium Development Goals; and
  - To undertake any other Tasks, Projects, Assignments, etc. as the Forum may deem fit.

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

MAY, 2014

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LARRDIS/No. 20/1/2014/PPR-17

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*\*Cover Photo: A panoramic view of Parliament House*