



Monsoon Session Day 16: 9 Bills Passed in Parliament

23.08.2025

Why in Discussion?

- The ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament has entered its fourth week.
- On Monday, the 16th day of the session was marked by political deadlock between the opposition and the ruling party.
- The opposition raised strong protests over the Bihar voter list revision, while the government decided to ensure the passage of pending bills at any cost.
- As a result, a total of 9 bills were passed in a single day—4 in the Lok Sabha and 5 in the Rajya Sabha.

Four Bills Passed in Lok Sabha:

- 1. Income Tax Bill**
 - Presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
 - Passed without debate.
- 2. Taxation Law (Amendment) Bill**
 - Focused on reforms in taxation laws.
 - Also passed without discussion.
- 3. National Sports Bill**
 - Aimed at administrative reforms and strengthening the institutional framework of sports.
 - Presented by Health and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
 - Passed amid limited discussion and protests.
- 4. National Anti-Doping Bill**
 - Law to prevent the use of prohibited substances by athletes.
 - Compliant with World Anti-Doping Agency norms.
 - Passed amid slogans and protests, with opposition absent at the start.

Five Bills Passed in Rajya Sabha:

- 1. Manipur Budget 2025-26**
 - Presented by Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary.
 - Passed amid limited discussion and protests.
- 2. Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill 2025**
 - Amendment in GST provisions for Manipur.
 - Passed by voice vote after brief discussion.
- 3. Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill 2025**
 - Related to the allocation of state funds.
 - Passed in the absence of the opposition.
- 4. Merchant Shipping Bill**
 - Reform in shipping and maritime transport sector.
 - Presented by Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal.
 - Passed after brief discussion amid protests.
- 5. Additional Financial Bill**
 - Related to Manipur, presented together with three other bills by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
 - Also passed successfully.

Legislative Work Amidst Chaos:

- Opposition MPs protested vocally from the Well of the House.
- Several bills were passed without detailed debate.
- Presiding officers repeatedly appealed to separate the issues from the bills.

Political Significance:

1. Ruling Party Strategy:

- Priority was to complete maximum legislative business.
- Took advantage of opposition absence and protests to pass a record number of bills.

2. Opposition Protest:

- They claimed passing bills without debate violates the spirit of democracy.
- Anger over ignoring Bihar voter list and Special Investigation Report (SIR) issues.

3. Question on Parliamentary Conventions:

- Is it correct to pass bills without proper debate?
- This could impact the credibility of democratic institutions.

Bills in Parliament

Bills are the means through which Parliament makes laws. Each bill serves a specific purpose and follows a distinct procedure. Understanding them is essential to comprehend India's legislative system.

1. What is a Bill?

- A bill is a proposal for a new law or an amendment to an existing law presented in Parliament.
- If it passes all required stages → receives the President's assent → becomes an Act → enforced as law.
- A bill goes through discussion, amendment, and voting in both Houses of Parliament.

Classification of Bills:

A. Based on the Presenter

1. Public / Government Bill

- **Presenter:** Minister
- **Purpose:** To implement government policies and manifesto promises
- **Likelihood of Passage:** High
- **Rejection Impact:** Affects the government's parliamentary confidence
- **Examples:** Defense, taxation, foreign policy bills

2. Private Member's Bill

- **Presenter:** Any member other than a minister
- **Purpose:** Regional/social issues or legal reforms
- **Likelihood of Passage:** Low
- **Rejection Impact:** Does not affect government confidence

Difference Between Public and Private Member Bills

Feature	Public Bill	Private Member's Bill
Presenter	Minister	Other Member
Purpose	Government policies	Private/Regional issues
Likelihood of Passage	High	Low
Effect of Rejection	Affects government confidence	No effect
Notice Period	7 days	1 month
Draft Prepared By	Concerned Department + Law Dept	Member themselves

B. Based on Subject/Content

1. **Original Bill** – New proposals, policies, or ideas presented for the first time.
2. **Amendment Bill** – Makes improvements, changes, or updates to existing laws.
3. **Consolidation Bill** – Combines multiple existing laws into one comprehensive law for simplicity and consistency.
4. **Continuing Bill** – Extends the validity of temporary laws (e.g., emergency or tax laws).
5. **Repeal Bill** – Repeals obsolete or inconsistent laws.
6. **Validation Bill** – Gives legal sanction to past actions.
7. **Ordinance Replacement Bill** – Converts ordinances issued by the President or Governor into permanent law.
8. **Constitution Amendment Bill** – Changes provisions of the Constitution to meet social or political requirements.

C. Based on Financial/Revenue Matters

1. Money Bill

- Governed by Article 110
- Subject: Taxation, borrowing, government expenditure, consolidated fund
- Can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha
- Rajya Sabha may only give recommendations

2. Financial Bill

- Related to financial matters but does not meet the strict criteria of a Money Bill
- Types:
 - **Financial Bill I:** Contains Money Bill subjects + other provisions
 - **Financial Bill II:** Only contains expenditure provisions; Money Bill subjects excluded

D. Based on Passage Procedure

1. **Ordinary Bill** – Non-financial subjects; passed by both Houses → President's assent
2. **Money Bill** – Introduced only in Lok Sabha → Rajya Sabha can suggest amendments; President's assent required
3. **Financial Bill** – Financial matters; Rajya Sabha can suggest amendments but cannot reject
4. **Constitution Amendment Bill** – Requires special majority in Parliament + approval of half of the state legislatures if required; President's assent needed

Relevant Articles of the Constitution:

- Money Bill: **Article 110**
- Financial Bill: **Article 117**
- Constitution Amendment: **Article 368**

Governor, President and Timeframe for Bills: Constitutional Provisions

(A) Governor – Article 200

When a bill passed by the State Legislature is presented to the Governor, they have four options:

1. **Give Assent** → The bill becomes law.
2. **Withhold Assent** → The bill is rejected.
3. **Send to President** → If the bill conflicts with any constitutional provision or concerns a central subject.

4. **Return for Reconsideration** → If the legislature passes it again, the Governor must give assent.

- **Note:** No timeframe is specified in the Constitution for action by the Governor.

(B) President – Article 111

When a bill passed by Parliament is presented to the President, they have three options:

1. **Give Assent**
2. **Withhold Assent**
3. **Return for Reconsideration** (except for Money Bills)
 - If Parliament passes the bill again, the President must give assent.
 - **Note:** No timeframe is mentioned here either.

Practice and Problem

- In practice, Governors and Presidents often keep bills pending for months or even years.
- This is called a “**Pocket Veto**”.
- It obstructs the democratic process, as laws passed by elected legislatures remain unenforced.

Recent Controversies:

- **Tamil Nadu:** Governor kept several bills pending for long periods.
- **Telangana, Punjab, Kerala:** These states approached the Supreme Court over delayed assents.

Supreme Court Intervention

<p>(A) Punjab vs Governor Case (2023) Court ruled that Governors cannot refuse to summon the legislature or withhold bills without reason.</p>	<p>(B) Tamil Nadu vs Governor Case (2023–24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Court observed that the Governor delayed bills for months.• It stated: “The Governor is only a constitutional functionary and does not have veto power over the legislature.”	<p>(C) Key Directive (2023–24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indefinitely withholding bills is unconstitutional.• “Within a reasonable time” is interpreted as a maximum of 3 months.• If the Governor or President does not act within this period, it violates the legislature’s authority.
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Significance

1. **Protection of Democratic Principle** → Respect for laws made by elected representatives.
2. **Curb on Pocket Veto** → Governors/Presidents can no longer arbitrarily withhold bills.
3. **Constitutional Balance** → Maintains power equilibrium between the Centre and States.
4. **Practical Timeframe** → The 3-month guideline ensures accountability in decision-making.

Conclusion

- The Constitution did not initially prescribe a timeframe.
- Governors and Presidents have the power to withhold bills, but it **cannot be indefinite**.
- Supreme Court clarified: **Governors and Presidents must decide on bills within 3 months**.
- This preserves the dignity of democracy and the supremacy of the legislature.