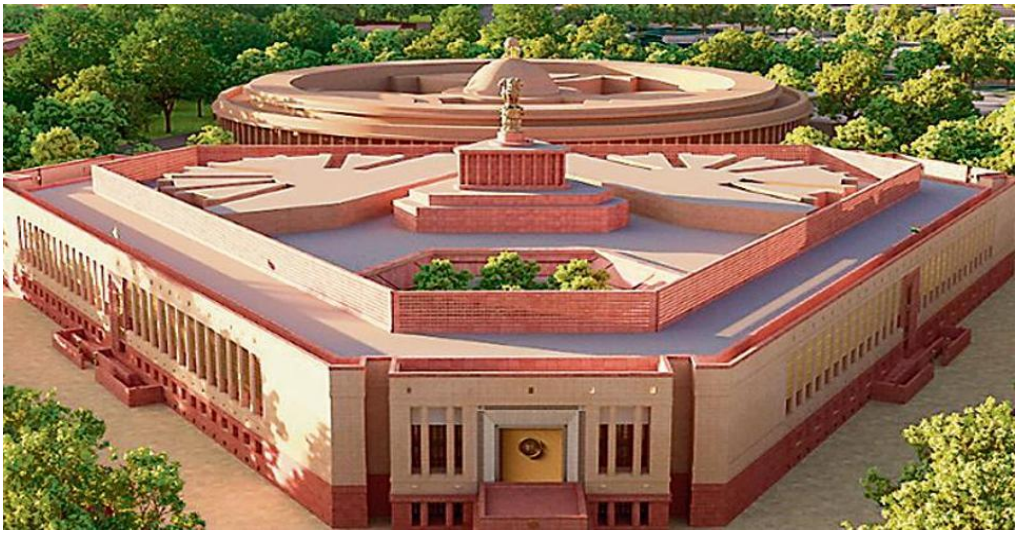


STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
DEFENCE

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
May, 2025/ Jyaistha, 1947 (Saka)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

The exponential growth in the sphere of activities of the Executive and the growing complexities of governance has resulted in the Parliament relying on its Committees to a greater extent for ensuring accountability of the Executive to the Legislature. As the Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs) are the specialized entities mandated with the onerous and intricate task of Ministry/Department specific oversight, the Parliament transacts a great volume of its business through these Committees. The Standing Committee on Defence, one of the 24 Departmentally Related Standing Committees in existence, is constituted under Rule 331 C of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The Committee have the Ministry of Defence under its jurisdiction, which has following five Departments:

(i) Department of Defence;
(ii) Department of Defence Production;
(iii) Department of Defence Research and Development;
(iv) Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare; and
(v) Department of Military Affairs

Composition of the Committee

The Committee consist of 31 Members; 21 Members from Lok Sabha, nominated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee from Lok Sabha. The term of office of the Members of the Committee does not exceed one year.

Functions of the Committee

The Committee have been entrusted with the following functions:

(a) to consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence, make reports on the same and present them to the Parliament;

(b) to examine such Bills pertaining to the Ministry of Defence as are referred to the Committee by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be, and make reports thereon;

(c) to consider Annual Report of the Ministry of Defence 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 Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be, and make reports thereon.

Working of the Committee

Procedure relating to consideration of Demands for Grants

After the general discussion on the Budget in the House is over, the Lok Sabha is adjourned for a fixed period. The Committee consider the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence under their jurisdiction during the aforesaid period and present/lay reports. The Report on Demands for Grants does not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions. The Demands for Grants are considered by the House in the light of the Reports 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 it by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the case may be. The Committee consider the general principles and clauses of the Bills referred to it and make Reports thereon within the given time.

Procedure relating to examination of Annual Reports

The Committee also select other subjects for examination on the basis of Annual Reports of the Ministry of Defence.

In addition, generally at the beginning of the term, the Committee also select the original subjects for in-depth examination and report, which may or may not be based on the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

The Reports of the Committee are generally unanimous in nature but 'Note of Dissent' may be given by any Member which forms part of the Report.

Procedure relating to examination of National Basic Long-Term Policy Documents

The Committee consider National Basic Long-Term Policy Documents presented to the Parliament and referred to them by the Speaker, Lok Sabha or Chairman, Rajya Sabha and make Reports on such documents.

Appointment of Sub-Committees/Study Groups

The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees/Study Groups from amongst the Members of the Committee with a view to making detailed study/ examination of the subjects selected by it as also for scrutinizing the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the original Reports and for considering procedural and general matters. The Chairperson/Convenor/Alternate Convenor of the Sub-Committee/Study Group shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee from amongst the Members of the Sub-Committee/Study Group.

On-the-spot Visits/Study Tours

In order to have a first-hand experience of various aspects concerning the subjects under examination, the Committee or its Sub-Committee(s)/Study Group(s) may with prior permission of the Speaker, undertake, if necessary, on-the-spot visits to various institutions and establishments falling under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence under the purview of the Committee.

Reports and Minutes

The Observations/Recommendations of the Committee on the subjects examined are contained in their Reports which after adoption by the Committee and factual verification by the Ministry of Defence are presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha by the Chairperson and the

authorized Members. The Minutes of the Sittings of the Committee are also presented to the House alongwith the Reports.

Action Taken Reports

The Recommendations of the Committee have persuasive value and are treated as considered advice given by the Committee. The Demands for Grants and the Bills which are reported upon by the Committee are considered by the Houses in the light of the recommendations of the Committee. In respect of Reports on Demands for Grants, National Basic Long-Term Policy Documents and other subjects, the Ministry of Defence is required to take action on the recommendations contained in the Report and furnish action taken replies thereon, within three months of the presentation of the Report. Action taken notes received from the Ministry of Defence are examined by the Committee and Action Taken Reports thereon are presented to Lok Sabha/laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

Proceedings, Draft Reports and Minutes of the Committee are treated as confidential until the Reports concerned are presented to Parliament.

Statement made by the Minister under direction 73A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha

In terms of direction 73A, the Minister concerned makes a statement once in six months in the House regarding the status of implementation of the Observations/Recommendations contained in the reports of the DRSCs with regard to the Ministry. This is aimed at ensuring that the recommendations of the Standing Committee are taken note of at the highest level by Government for follow up action.

Reports Presented by the Committee

So far, the Standing Committee on Defence have presented 207 Reports to Parliament. The Lok Sabha-wise break up is as under:—

Lok Sabha	Tenure	Reports Presented			
		DFG	Subjects	Bills	ATR
Tenth Lok Sabha *	1991-1996	3	2	-	3
Eleventh Lok Sabha	1996-1998	2	-	1	2
Twelfth Lok Sabha	1998-1999	2	4	-	2
Thirteenth Lok Sabha	1999-2004	4	4	1	12
Fourteenth Lok Sabha	2004-2009	5	14	2	15
Fifteenth Lok Sabha	2009-2014	5	4	1	12
Sixteenth Lok Sabha	2014-2019	20	5	-	25
Seventeenth Lok Sabha	2019-2024	20	3	1	23
Eighteenth Lok Sabha	2024 – 2025 (At the end of Budget Session)	8	-	-	2
Total		69	36	6	96
Grand Total	**207**				

* The Committee was constituted for the first time on 8 April, 1993 during the Tenth Lok Sabha