Polity & Governance · GS - II

Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary scrutiny; executive accountability; specialised examination; financial oversight; economy in expenditure; Estimates Committee; administrative efficiency; public funds

Model Answer

Introduction

Parliamentary committees enable detailed examination of legislation, public expenditure and government functioning that may not be possible during full House debates.

Usefulness of Parliamentary Committees

1. **Detailed scrutiny:** Smaller groups can examine complex issues and departmental performance in depth.
2. **Executive accountability:** Committees scrutinise government actions and highlight administrative shortcomings.
3. **Expert consultation:** They can seek evidence from officials, experts and stakeholders.
4. **Consensus building:** Committee discussions often permit constructive deliberation beyond partisan debate.
5. **Continuity:** They monitor matters across parliamentary sessions and support informed legislative work.

Role of the Estimates Committee

1. **Economy and efficiency:** Examines budget estimates and suggests economies consistent with administrative efficiency.
2. **Administrative reform:** Recommends improvements in organisation, efficiency and financial management.
3. **Alternative policies:** Suggests alternative policies that may improve economy and effectiveness.
4. **Accountability:** Identifies wasteful expenditure and opportunities for better utilisation of public resources.

The Estimates Committee consists of Lok Sabha members and examines estimates referred to it. It does not ordinarily examine public undertakings in the manner assigned to the Committee on Public Undertakings, nor does it decide the policy of the government.

Conclusion

Parliamentary committees strengthen deliberative democracy and financial accountability. The Estimates Committee, in particular, promotes prudent expenditure and more efficient administration.

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