Polity & Governance · GS - II

How does the constitutional framework governing parliamentary sessions facilitate legislative accountability and democratic deliberation in India?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Article 85, parliamentary sittings, executive accountability, legislative scrutiny, Question Hour, financial oversight, democratic deliberation

Model Answer

Parliamentary sessions provide the institutional space for elected representatives to debate public policy, scrutinise government decisions and enact legislation. Their regular functioning is therefore central to India's parliamentary democracy.

Constitutional Framework

1. **Article 85:** Empowers the President to summon each House of Parliament. The Constitution also requires that no more than six months should intervene between the last sitting of one session and the first sitting of the next.
2. **Session management:** The executive determines the proposed parliamentary calendar within the constitutional framework, while the presiding officers regulate proceedings in their respective Houses.
3. **Adjournment and prorogation:** Adjournment suspends a sitting or meeting, whereas prorogation formally terminates a session.

Contribution to Democratic Accountability

1. **Executive scrutiny:** Question Hour, parliamentary questions and discussions enable legislators to seek explanations from ministers.
2. **Legislative deliberation:** Debates and committee examination improve the quality of legislation by allowing competing viewpoints and expert inputs.
3. **Financial accountability:** Parliamentary consideration of the Union Budget, demands for grants and appropriation legislation subjects public expenditure to legislative control.
4. **Representation:** Parliamentary proceedings provide a platform for raising regional, social and constituency-level concerns.

Institutional Challenges

Frequent disruptions, inadequate sitting days, rushed legislative consideration and limited committee scrutiny can weaken parliamentary oversight. Short or special sittings may address specific legislative requirements but cannot substitute for sustained deliberation.

Conclusion

The constitutional framework establishes minimum safeguards for parliamentary functioning. Effective democracy, however, requires not merely convening Parliament but ensuring adequate time, meaningful debate and rigorous executive accountability.

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