Polity & Governance · GS - II

Evaluate the significance of parliamentary opposition in ensuring executive accountability and the quality of legislative deliberation in India.

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

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary democracy, opposition's role, legislative scrutiny, Question Hour, parliamentary committees, accountability, disruptions

Model Answer

Opposition as a constitutional-democratic institution

In a parliamentary democracy, the opposition is not merely an electoral competitor but an essential institution for scrutinising executive authority, representing alternative viewpoints and protecting democratic accountability.

Contributions to parliamentary functioning

1. **Executive accountability:** Through Question Hour, debates, motions and parliamentary interventions, opposition members seek explanations from ministers and highlight administrative failures.

2. **Legislative scrutiny:** Opposition participation helps identify shortcomings in proposed legislation, question policy assumptions and suggest amendments.

3. **Representation of diverse interests:** Opposition parties articulate regional, social and economic concerns that may otherwise receive inadequate attention in national policymaking.

4. **Financial oversight:** Scrutiny of budgetary demands and public expenditure helps examine government priorities and promote fiscal accountability.

5. **Committee-based examination:** Participation in parliamentary committees enables detailed, relatively non-partisan examination of bills and policy matters.

Institutional limitations

1. Frequent disruptions and adjournments reduce the time available for meaningful debate.

2. Limited referral of important bills to committees can weaken detailed legislative scrutiny.

3. Political polarisation may replace evidence-based deliberation with adversarial confrontation.

4. Inadequate parliamentary time and information can constrain effective oversight.

Strengthening deliberative democracy

Parliamentary functioning can improve through predictable debate schedules, stronger committee scrutiny, adequate time for opposition interventions and greater transparency in legislative processes. Both government and opposition must respect parliamentary procedures and constitutional conventions.

Conclusion: A constructive opposition strengthens rather than obstructs parliamentary democracy. The quality of legislation and executive accountability depends significantly on whether Parliament functions as a forum for informed deliberation rather than merely a platform for political confrontation.

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