

A Brief Report on Twenty - Seventh Appreciation Course in Parliamentary Process and Procedure for Professors/ Associate Professors/ Assistant Professors of Universities/ Colleges.

Date: 02 – 06 May, 2016

Venue: Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training,
Lok Sabha Secretariat
New Delhi

Theme of the Course: The course was organised to upgrade the knowledge of the participants in the area of Parliamentary Process and Procedure with practical approach.

Submitted By:



Dr.G.MATHAN
Assistant Professor
Department of Biomedical Science
Bharathidasan University
Tiruchirappalli Tamil Nadu, India

The Twenty-Seventh Appreciation Course in Parliamentary Process and Procedure for Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors of universities and colleges was organized by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training in New Delhi from 02 to 06 May 2016. The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training was established with the objective of providing parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and other stakeholders with structured and institutionalized opportunities for systematic training in various aspects of parliamentary institutions, processes, and procedures.

Day- 1: Monday, 02nd May, 2016

Session-1:

Inauguration Session.



The first day commenced with the assembly of participants in the Main Lecture Hall of the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST). Invitations had been extended to 80 colleges and universities across the country; 174 participants registered for the programme, and over 110 ultimately attended the course. The day also included the distribution of study kits to all participants. The programme was inaugurated under the patronage of the Chief Guest, **Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani**, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India. **Shri Raghunandan Sharma**, Honorary Advisor, BPST, attended as the Guest of Honour, while **Smt. Kalpana Sharma**, Joint Secretary, BPST, graced the occasion as the Special Guest.

The session commenced with a welcome address by Shri Raghunandan Sharma, Honorary Advisor, BPST. In his remarks, he emphasized the significance of the democratic system, noting that India stands as one of the most successful democracies in the world. He highlighted that the country is widely respected for its robust mechanism of conducting free and fair elections and ensuring the peaceful transfer of power. He further observed that India is the largest and one of the oldest sovereign democratic republics, guided by a written and well-balanced Constitution with several unique features. The Constitution commands the highest respect as the supreme authority, and he underscored that a refined and practical form of the parliamentary system is exemplified in India.

The Parliament of India has undertaken comprehensive initiatives to promote in-depth study and training in the parliamentary system through the establishment of the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST). Founded in 1976 as an integral part of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, BPST was created to provide systematic education and training in various aspects of parliamentary institutions, processes, and procedures for legislators and officials.

As a premier training institution under the Lok Sabha Secretariat, BPST organizes a wide range of programmes. These include orientation programmes and seminars for Members of Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies, and foreign parliamentarians; lecture series and computer awareness programmes for Members of Parliament; orientation programmes and seminars for media personnel; training and refresher courses for officers of Parliament and State Legislative Assembly Secretariats; and appreciation programmes for scholars, academicians, and senior and middle-level officers of the Government of India.



The Twenty-Seventh Appreciation Course in Parliamentary Process and Procedure was organized with the objective of enhancing faculty understanding of parliamentary studies across universities. Participants were encouraged to disseminate the knowledge gained during the programme among students in their respective colleges and universities. In her inaugural address, the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, welcomed participants from institutions across the country and congratulated them on their role as vital links between knowledge and students. She observed that teaching is a demanding profession, as educators bear the responsibility of imparting subject knowledge, fostering new ideas, and inspiring learners. She also emphasized the importance of teachers staying continually updated with the latest developments in their respective fields of specialization.

The appreciation course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of parliamentary studies. It covers key aspects such as the functioning of Question Hour, the nature of questions raised by Members of Parliament, its significance, the responses provided by concerned Ministers, and various initiatives undertaken by the Government. Participants were also encouraged to share their concerns and engage in discussions on relevant issues.

Speaking on the education system, she emphasized the need to grant a certain degree of autonomy to affiliated colleges, rather than strictly binding them to the rules and regulations of their respective universities. She also highlighted the importance of expanding educational opportunities in tribal areas, with a special focus on empowering tribal women. Furthermore, she encouraged participants to motivate students to pursue careers in the education sector.



In addition, she introduced the concept of “Bal Sansad,” a model parliamentary system for children, structured along the lines of the Lok Sabha. This initiative envisages a functioning setup with a cabinet, an opposition, and even a Prime Minister, all selected through a defined procedural framework established by the ministry. The Bal Sansad is envisioned as a platform where students can identify and address issues faced by their schools and peers, proposing solutions through discussions, the drafting of bills, and recommendations to school authorities. The primary objective of this initiative is to foster awareness and understanding of the parliamentary system in India. She further encouraged participants to organize academic activities such as seminars, workshops, and lecture series on the theme of the making of the Indian Constitution, particularly in connection with 26 November 2016. In addition, she invited participants to share feedback with the Ministry of Human Resource Development regarding challenges in the existing education system and to engage their students in similar discussions. She concluded her address by extending her best wishes and expressing the hope that the knowledge gained from the course would be meaningfully shared with students.



Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Joint Secretary, BPST, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing her gratitude to Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani and Shri Raghunandan Sharma. She also provided a brief overview of the course. Following the inaugural ceremony, a group photograph was taken with the dignitaries.

Session- 2:

Visit to Parliament Museum

The visit to the Parliament Museum followed the inaugural ceremony, offering participants valuable insights into India's rich parliamentary heritage. **The Parliament Museum was inaugurated on 14 August 2006 by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the then President of India**, in the presence of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the then Vice-President, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister, and Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, along with several other distinguished dignitaries.

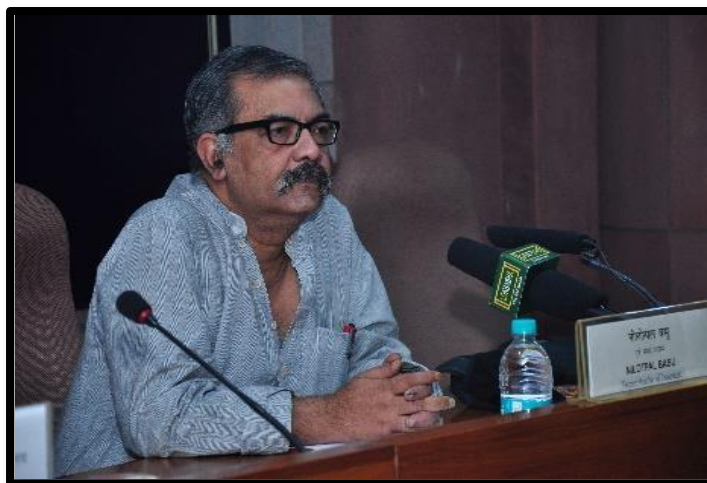
The museum presents a comprehensive narrative of India's freedom struggle and the evolution of its democratic institutions. Through photographs, archival records, audio-visual presentations, and interactive displays, it highlights key milestones in the nation's journey towards independence and the establishment of a sovereign democratic republic. It also features a rare and significant collection of gifts presented by foreign dignitaries to former Speakers of the Lok Sabha, symbolizing India's parliamentary diplomacy and global relations. In addition, the Parliament Museum is designed as an interactive learning space that helps visitors understand the functioning of the Indian parliamentary system in a simple and engaging manner. It showcases the journey of India's Constitution-making process, the role of the Constituent Assembly, and the evolution of democratic practices over time. Various models, exhibits, and digital presentations provide a detailed understanding of parliamentary procedures, important constitutional developments, and landmark legislative decisions, making it an important educational resource for students, scholars, and visitors alike.

Day- 2: Tuesday, 03rd May, 2016

Session- 1:

Parliament in the Indian Polity

- Shri Nilotpal Basu



Shri Nilotpal Basu, a senior leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and former Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha (serving from 3 April 1994 to 2 April 2006), delivered a lecture on the topic “Parliament in the Indian Polity.” The session was held from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

He began his lecture by providing a historical overview of the framing of the Indian Constitution. He elaborated on the discussions and debates held in the Constituent Assembly, highlighting key issues such as constitutional independence, decolonization, economic equality, secularism, social justice, and the independence of the judiciary, among others.

He further explained the role of legislators in Parliament, emphasizing two key responsibilities: first, the formulation of laws and policies aimed at the welfare of society, and second, their accountability to the people. He illustrated these points by drawing upon his extensive experience as a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

He also discussed the role of Parliament in addressing various social and developmental challenges, including education, poverty alleviation, and access to water facilities, underscoring its importance as a forum for resolving both social and natural issues affecting the country.

Session- 2:

Observation of the Proceedings of the Lok Sabha

After completion of session-1 and Tea- break, our group went for a visit to Lok Sabha to attend Zero Hour session. The time immediately following the Question Hour has come to be known as “Zero Hour”. It starts at 12:00PM, in this session member (MP) can raise the important issues with prior notice to the Speaker. We have noticed that, several MP’s has raised the issues related to their Constituency. We came back to BPST at 1:15PM then we have a lunch break.

Session- 3: Parliamentary Questions and Other Procedural Devices for Raising Matters of Urgent Public Importance on the Floor of the House

- *Shri Prem Das Rai, MP*



The session was chaired by **Dr. G. Mathan** from **Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli**.

Shri Prem Das Rai, a senior leader of the **Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF)** and Member of Parliament in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha representing the Sikkim constituency, delivered the lecture. He is distinguished as the first Member of Parliament to hold degrees from both the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He also serves on several parliamentary committees, including the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, the Standing Committee on Finance, the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, among others.

He began his address by highlighting the significance of questions raised in the Lok Sabha. He explained that Members of Parliament have the right to seek information on matters of public importance from the concerned Ministers. He then elaborated on the different types of questions raised in Parliament, namely Starred Questions, Unstarred Questions, Short Notice Questions, and Questions addressed to Private Members (typically taken up on Fridays).

He further discussed the scheduling and allocation of days for raising questions, noting that various Ministries and Departments are categorized into Groups A, B, C, D, and E, with specific days assigned from Monday to Friday for responding to parliamentary questions.

In addition to questions, he also elaborated on other important parliamentary devices available to Members for raising urgent matters of public importance. These include the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Adjournment Motion, No-Day-Yet-Named Motion, Short Duration Discussion, and Calling Attention Motion.

The interactive session commenced at 2:30 PM and continued until 3:30 PM.

**Session- 4: Parliamentary Committee System with Special Reference to
Departmentally Related to Standing Committees**

- Shri Oscar Fernandes, MP



Shri Oscar Fernandes, a veteran leader of the Indian National Congress (INC), currently serving as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, has also held key positions as Union Cabinet Minister for Transport, Road & Highways and for Labour and Employment in the UPA Government.

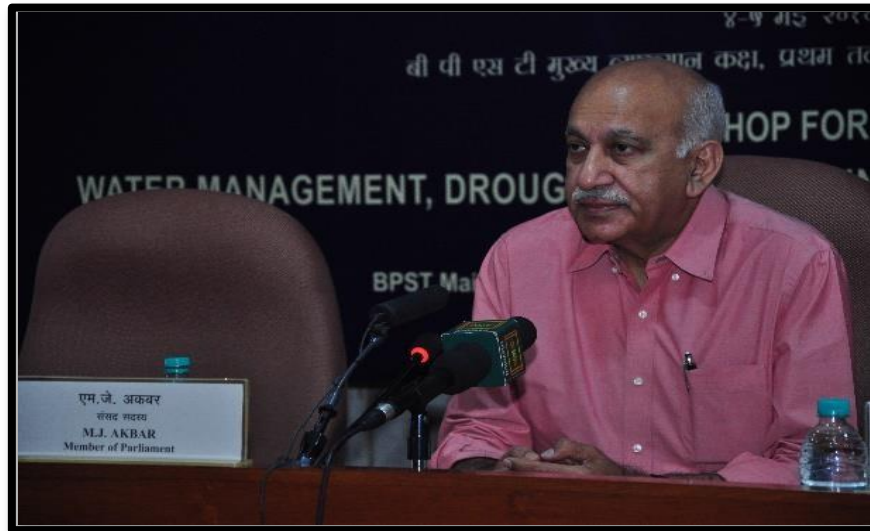
The lecture commenced with an emphasis on the significance of Parliamentary Committees in the legislative framework. He described committees as the backbone of Parliament, highlighting that while parliamentary sessions are time-bound, committees function continuously throughout the year. He explained that committees carry out detailed and specialized work delegated to them, including examining issues in depth, collecting facts, recording evidence, and making informed recommendations on specific subjects referred to them.

He further categorized parliamentary committees into three broad types: Parliamentary Committees, Consultative Committees, and Government Committees. Since the focus of the lecture was on the Parliamentary Committee system, he elaborated extensively on this structure. He informed participants that there are 55 Parliamentary Committees in total, of which 31 are Joint Committees of both Houses and 24 are Standing Committees of a single House. Out of these 24 Standing Committees, 12 belong to the Rajya Sabha and 12 to the Lok Sabha. He further explained that 24 out of the 31 Joint Committees are Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs). These committees play a crucial role in strengthening parliamentary oversight by examining Demands for Grants, Bills, Annual Reports, and major policy documents related to long-term national planning and development. He also highlighted how DRSCs enhance the effectiveness of governance by enabling detailed scrutiny of executive actions, thereby ensuring accountability, transparency, and informed decision-making within the parliamentary system.

The session commenced at 3:45 PM and continued till 5:00 PM.

Day- 3: Wednesday, 04th May, 2016

Session-1: Interaction with Shri M.J. Akbar, Member of Parliament



Shri M.J. Akbar, a renowned Indian journalist, author, national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, has served as Editor-in-Chief and later Editorial Director of *The Sunday Guardian*, and has also been associated with prominent publications such as *India Today* and *Headlines Today*.

In his lecture, he shared his views on Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the functioning of Parliament. He observed that Parliament, in its present form, is often seen more as a “chamber of noise” than a forum of meaningful debate.

A key focus of his address was the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a). He noted that while this right is constitutionally guaranteed, its practical application often differs in contemporary times, particularly during elections when it faces various pressures and constraints. He also referred to the First Constitutional Amendment introduced under Pandit Nehru, which placed reasonable restrictions on this right, emphasizing that freedom of speech is not absolute.

Drawing from his personal experiences during the 1970s and 1980s, he reflected on the evolving nature of press freedom and expression in India. He also briefly discussed the various writs provided under the Indian Constitution as safeguards of fundamental rights.

The session was held from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

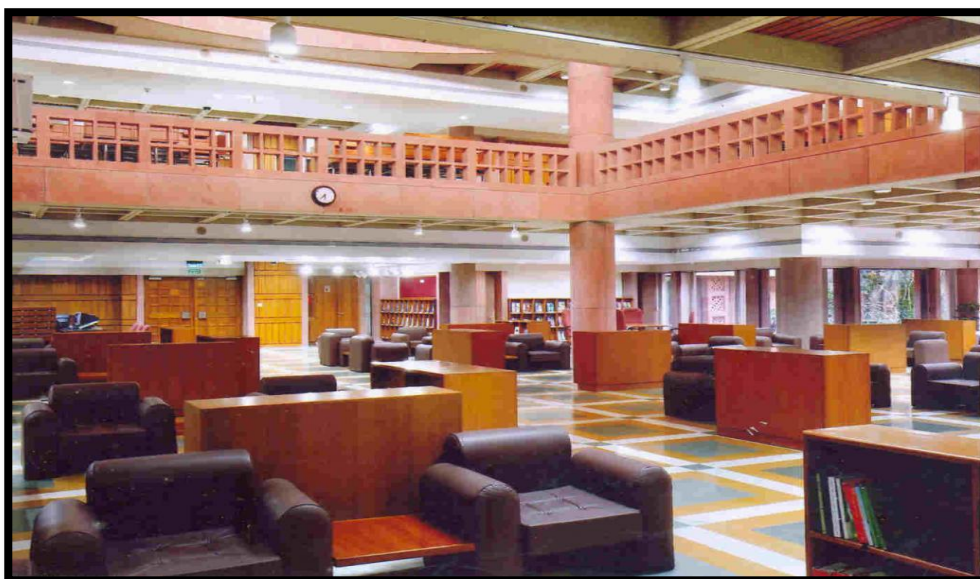
Session- 2: Visit to the Parliamentary Library: A Treasure House of Knowledge and Heritage

After the tea break, our group visited the Parliamentary Library, where we observed a replica of the Constitution of India displayed with great reverence, highlighting its importance as the supreme guiding document of the nation. We also explored various specialized sections of the library, including Gandhiana, which houses an extensive collection of books and literature on Mahatma Gandhi, and Nehruana, dedicated to works and references on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The library also has a dedicated language section comprising books and resources in various Indian languages, reflecting the country's linguistic diversity. As part of this, we visited the Tamil language section, which contains a rich collection of Tamil literary works, reference books, and official publications, making it an important resource for regional language studies and research.

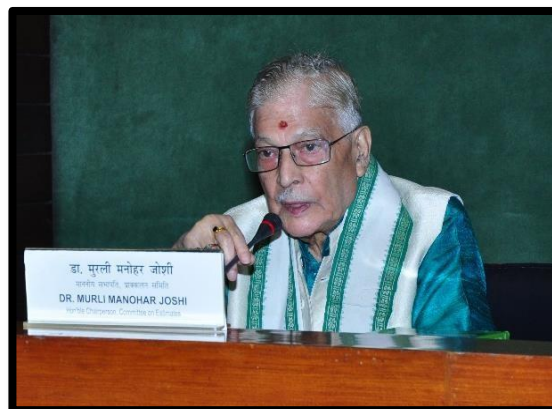
The Parliamentary Library, established in 1921 to assist Members of the Indian Legislature, is one of the most prestigious and comprehensive libraries in India. It is the largest library in Delhi and the second largest in the country after the National Library. The library houses an extensive collection of approximately 1.38 million volumes, including books, reports, government publications, United Nations documents, parliamentary debates, gazettes, periodicals, newspapers, and other reference materials.

Equipped with modern facilities such as centralized Wi-Fi connectivity, well-organized reading halls, and comfortable seating arrangements, the library provides a conducive environment for research and study. It serves as a vital knowledge hub supporting parliamentary functioning as well as academic and scholarly work. Over the past sixty years, the Library and the Research and Reference Services provided to Members of Parliament have steadily evolved into what is now known as the Library, Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service, commonly abbreviated as LARRDIS.



Session- 3: Budgetary Process – Demands for Grants- Finance Committee

**- Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi,
MP Hon'ble Chairperson,
Estimate committee.**



Shri Murli Manohar Joshi, a veteran political leader and former President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), previously served as the Union Cabinet Minister for Human Resource Development in the NDA government. He is currently a member of the 16th Lok Sabha and the Chairperson of the Estimates Committee.

He began his lecture with an overview of democracy and the crucial role of Parliamentary Committees, focusing particularly on Financial Committees. He observed that while Parliament sessions often involve debates between the Government and the Opposition, committee meetings represent a more constructive engagement between Parliament and the bureaucracy.

He explained that the Lok Sabha has constituted three key Financial Committees, Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Estimates Committee, and Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) to ensure effective scrutiny of public expenditure. While the PAC and COPU oversee ministries, departments, and public sector undertakings, the Estimates Committee focuses on improving efficiency and suggesting economies in government functioning.

He further elaborated that the PAC examines government accounts and audit reports, the Estimates Committee reviews budget estimates and recommends administrative improvements, and the COPU examines the performance and accounts of public undertakings, including reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General. The session was highly interactive and insightful.



A group photograph was taken with Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.



Day- 4: Thursday, 05th May, 2016

Session-1:

The Legislative Process

**- Shri T. Jayakumar,
Director of Lok Sabha Secretariat**



Mr. T. Jayakumar began the lecture by introducing key features of the Indian Constitution, particularly its bicameral structure and unitary characteristics. He then explained the Seventh Schedule, which divides legislative subjects into the Union List, State List, and Concurrent List.

The Union List includes subjects on which only Parliament can legislate, the State List covers areas reserved for State Legislatures, and the Concurrent List includes subjects where both can make laws. He further noted that in case of any conflict between Central and State laws on Concurrent List subjects, the Central law prevails. The discussion provided a detailed understanding of the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States.

He also elaborated on different types of Bills, including Government Bills and Private Members' Bills, and explained their classification based on financial implications into Money Bills, Financial Bills, and Ordinary Bills. Sir described the legislative process of Government Bills, including initiation, drafting, Cabinet approval, and the Statement of Objects and Reasons, followed by the three stages of passage: First Reading, Second Reading, and Third Reading. Regarding Private Members' Bills, he mentioned that 14 such bills have been passed so far, introduced by Members of Parliament.

The interactive session was held from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Session-2: Interactive Session with Shri D.P. Tripathi: Key Insights



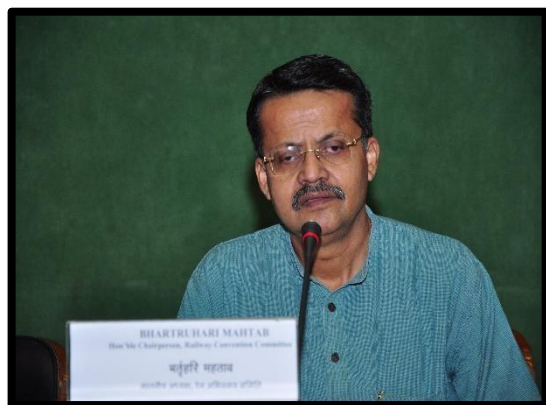
Shri D.P. Tripathi, a senior leader and General Secretary of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, is also a former Professor of Political Science.

He delivered a lecture beginning with an overview of the first democratic revolution of 11 December 1688 and its influence on Indian politics. He reflected on India's political evolution from the era of single-party dominance under the Congress to the present age of coalition governments, noting the transition from the UPA to the NDA, a pattern also seen in European democracies. He further highlighted the growing interest of young people in the Indian parliamentary system and their increasing awareness of national responsibilities, contributing to the development of both the state and the nation. The session focused on the Indian parliamentary system and was held from 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM.

Session- 3:

The Budgetary Process

**- Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP
Hon'ble Chairperson,
Railway Convention Committee.**



Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, a member of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), is currently serving as a Member of the 16th Lok Sabha and the Hon'ble Chairperson of the Railway Convention Committee.

He delivered a lecture explaining the concept of financial business in Parliament, which includes the Budget (General and Railway Budgets), Demands for Grants, Vote on Account, Supplementary and Excess Demands for Grants, as well as the Appropriation Bill and Finance Bill. He further described how, after the Budget is presented, the Lok Sabha examines financial proposals through several stages—from general discussion to the final passage of the Appropriation and Finance Bills.

These stages include the general discussion on the Budget, Vote on Account, scrutiny of Demands for Grants by Departmentally Related Standing Committees, discussion and voting on demands, and the consideration and passage of the Appropriation and Finance Bills. He also noted that after approval in the Lok Sabha, the proposals are sent to the Rajya Sabha for further discussion. The interactive session was held from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

Day- 5: Friday, 06th May, 2016

Session-1:

Parliamentary Privileges

- Shri S.S.Ahluwalia, Hon'ble Chairperson, Committee on Privileges, Lok Sabha.



Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, National Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is currently a Member of the 16th Lok Sabha and the Hon'ble Chairperson of the Committee on Privileges, Lok Sabha.

He began the lecture by outlining the duties and responsibilities of Members of Parliament, also touching upon their honorarium and other entitlements. He then discussed the concept of Parliamentary Privileges, describing them as special rights and exemptions granted to Members of Parliament to enable them to perform their duties effectively. In legal terms, these privileges provide exemptions from certain obligations, liabilities, or restrictions applicable to others.

He highlighted two key privileges: (i) freedom of speech in Parliament and (ii) freedom to publish its proceedings. He further explained that the purpose of parliamentary privileges is to protect the freedom, authority, and dignity of Parliament, ensuring its smooth functioning without obstruction. These privileges are essential both for individual Members to perform their roles and for the collective authority of the House.

Drawing from his political experience, Sir elaborated on the practical importance of these privileges. The interactive session was held from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.



A group photograph was taken with Shri S.S. Ahluwalia

Session-2:

Valedictory Session

After lunch, the Valedictory Ceremony was held with **Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Joint Secretary, BPST**, as the Chief Guest. In her address, she expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the programme and appreciated the sincerity and active participation of all attendees. She encouraged participants to share the knowledge gained with students in their respective institutions, colleges, and universities. She also extended her gratitude to everyone for their involvement in this knowledge enrichment programme. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates of appreciation and a group photograph with all participants.

The programme was organized by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) officials, including **Smt. Kalpana Sharma, Joint Secretary; Shri Naushad Alam, Additional Director; Dr. Seema Kaur Singh, Additional Director**; and other staff members.

Participation in this Appreciation Course proved to be highly enriching and insightful, offering valuable exposure to parliamentary processes and procedures. The five-day programme also helped build meaningful professional and personal connections among participants from various states across the country. It further provided an opportunity to interact with resource persons and discuss academic and extension activities related to our university.

I would like to express sincere gratitude to **Prof. V. M. Muthukumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Bharathidasan University**, for providing this opportunity to engage with experts and gain in-depth knowledge of parliamentary procedures.

