

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Rajasthan Legislative Council Bill, 2013

- The Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice (Chairperson: Mr Shantaram Naik) submitted its report on the Rajasthan Legislative Council Bill, 2013 on December 9, 2013. The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 6, 2013.
- The Bill provides for the creation of a Legislative Council for the state of Rajasthan with 66 members. This is subsequent to a resolution passed by the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on April 18, 2012, for the creation of a Legislative Council in that state.
- The Committee endorsed the creation of a Legislative Council for the state of Rajasthan. However, it made certain suggestions in relation to the Bill.
- It stated that the central government should evolve a national policy for creation and abolition of Legislative Councils. This would ensure that upper chambers in state assemblies do not become temporary bodies which can be created and abolished by incumbent governments.
- The composition of Legislative Councils must be reviewed. In particular, the representation of local bodies in Legislative Councils must be examined to ensure that it is not limited to urban local bodies. There must be proper representation of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj, urban local self Government bodies and ward Committees as laid down in the Constitution.
- There must be a review of constituencies like members elected by the state legislative assemblies, graduates and teachers, in light of changing times.

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