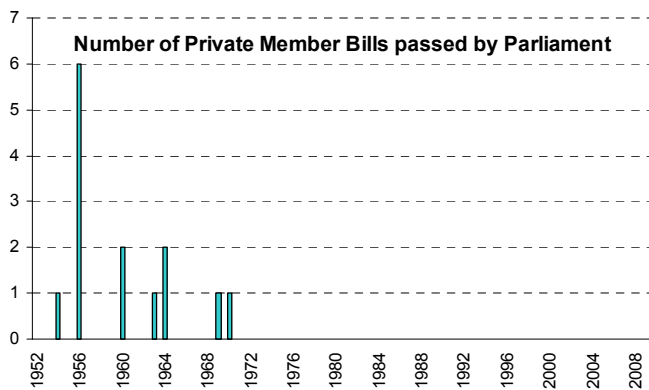


Vital Stats

Private Members' Bills in Lok Sabha

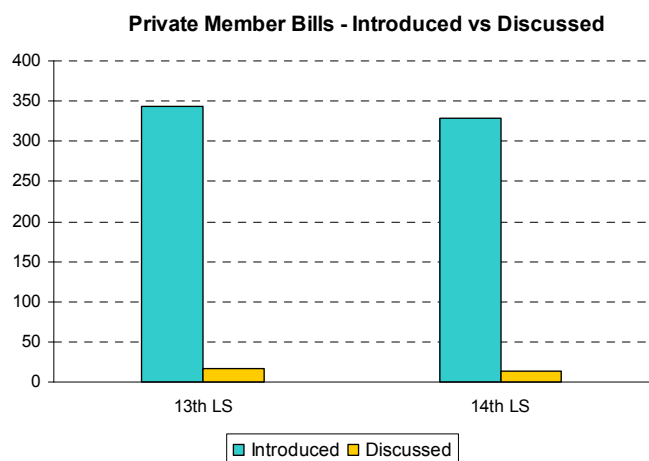
No Private Members' Bill has been passed by Parliament since 1970. Of the 300 odd Private Members' Bills introduced in the 14th Lok Sabha, barely 4% were discussed; 96% lapsed without even a single debate in the House. In this document, we look at Private Members' Bills in the context of the 13th and 14th Lok Sabha

No Private Members' Bill has been passed by Parliament since 1970



- Every Member of Parliament, who is not a Minister, is called a Private Member. Private Members' Bills are Bills introduced by these MPs.
- In Lok Sabha, the last two and a half hours of a sitting on every Friday are generally allotted for transaction of Private Members' Business, i.e., Private Members' Bills and Private Members' Resolutions.
- Till date, Parliament has passed 14 Private Members' Bills. Six of these were passed in 1956 alone.
- The last Private Members' Bill passed by Parliament was 'The Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968' that became an Act on 9th August, 1970.

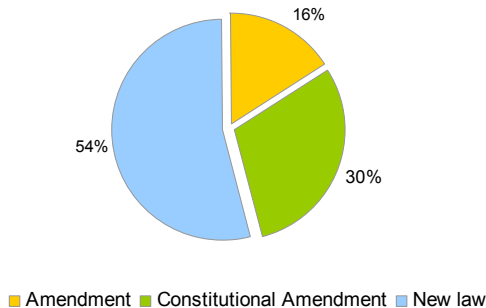
Of the 328 Private Members' Bills introduced in the 14th Lok Sabha, only 14 were discussed



- Given the large number of Bills introduced each session, selection for discussion is done through ballot. The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions classifies the Bills according to their nature, urgency and importance. The House then decides the relative precedence in each category.
- 328 Private Member Bills were introduced in the 14th Lok Sabha (UPA I Government). Of these, only 14 (4.3%) were taken up for discussion; none were passed.
- Only 53 hrs were spent on these discussions during the entire five year term (2004-09).
- 'Introduction of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 (Insertion of article 47A)' by Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy (CPI) saw the longest discussion, spanning a total of 8 hrs. The Bill was withdrawn at the end of this discussion.
- The situation was similar during the term of the NDA Government (13th Lok Sabha). 343 Private Member Bills were introduced, 17 (5%) discussed and none passed.

30% of Bills introduced proposed constitutional amendments

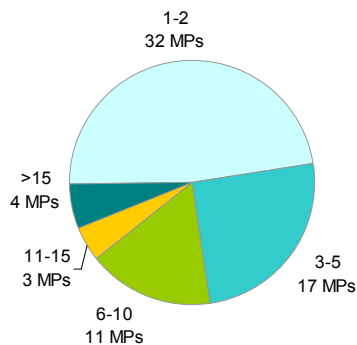
Private Member Bills - 14th Lok Sabha



- In the 14th Lok Sabha, most (54%) Private Members' Bills aimed to effect new legislation, 30% targeted constitutional amendments.
- Corresponding figures for 13th Lok Sabha were 46% and 35%; with the remaining proposing amendments to existing legislation.

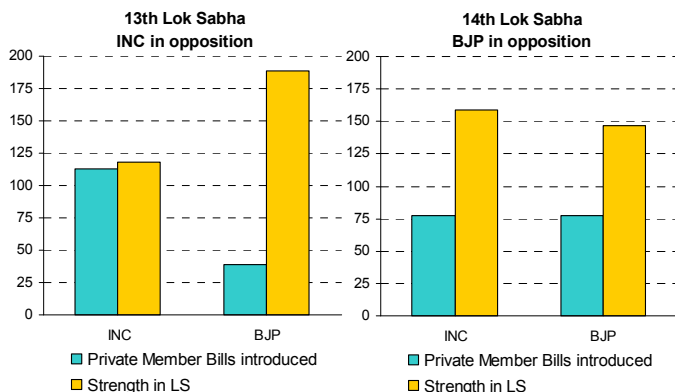
67 MPs introduced all Private Members' Bills in the 14th Lok Sabha

No. of Private Member Bills introduced by MPs - 14th Lok Sabha



- Participation in the House through the medium of Private Member's Bills saw limited participation – only 67 non-Minister MPs introduced Bills.
- Of these, 4 MPs - C.K. Chandrappan (CPI), Mohan Singh(SP), Bachi Singh Rawat (BJP), Hansraj Gangaram Ahir (BJP) - contributed a total of 101 Bills.
- The 13th Lok Sabha saw similar levels of participation, with only 75 MPs introducing Bills.

On average, Congress MPs introduced more Bills than their BJP counterparts



- A party's average per head contribution of Private Members' Bills usually decreases when it forms the Government.
- The Congress in opposition saw an average contribution of 1 Private Members' Bill per MP, while the BJP in opposition averaged 0.5 Private Members' Bill per MP
- The Congress in power averaged 0.5 Bill per MP while the BJP in power averaged 0.2 Bill per MP.

Notes:

1. The entire analysis is based on the session-wise 'Resume of Work' obtained from the Lok Sabha website.

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