



Parliamentary Debate With PRS Legislative

Training Session

The training session focused on educating attendees about how the Indian Parliament works during Bill discussions, Zero Hour, and Question Hour. The workshop was incredibly engaging and provocative. It began with a series of questions meant to assess the attendee's prior understanding of parliamentary proceedings, such as the functions and significance of the parliament. Attendees were also put in a position replicating a constituency, in which one person, serving as the leader, was given a particular amount of currency and the others were to question him on how he would utilize the money in the best interests of the people. This educated participants on the benefits of a Question Hour.



The major focus was a monetary topic, where the agenda was the punishment imposed for disobeying traffic laws. A debate was held in which participants expressed their views on how big the penalties should be in order for the regulations to be effective. The topic was debated in a highly meaningful discussion that resembled voting and deliberation of bills in Parliament. Participants were taught about the functions of MPs and ministers, as well as how they function in a parliamentary session.



Parliamentary Debate

The members of the house were introduced to the Speaker and given the schedule for the proceedings of the day. It was followed by the National Anthem. They swore an oath and took their seats in the chamber. The session then moved on to the question hour. Each MP group asked its Ministries two starred questions and one follow-up.

After all the queries were answered, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill, 2022, was discussed. The Ministry of Women and Child Development introduced the Bill and described the existing legislation, as well as those they planned to enact. The following were some ideas provided by the teams on how to improve the bill before its passing:

- Concentration on the bill's implementation, accountability, money, research, and problem-solving.
- The necessity for a victim support system, provisions for education and financial independence in teenage mothers specifically, and a focus on the victim's physical and emotional health.
- Ensuring that women were equally held accountable, and whether or not parents should be held responsible for a marriage they were unaware of. Highlighting the petition's concerns about forced marriage, its negative effects on minors, and guardians' unsuitability as parents.
- Altering the bill to affect both contracting parties rather than only focusing on women. Raising the marriageable age for women to 21 as well as providing opportunities for education, skill development, helplines for child marriages, and educating and training police personnel in order to reduce female dependency on men
- Taking action to raise awareness of child marriages and the rights of victims, taking a holistic strategy to doing so, and paying particular attention to rural areas..





The session then proceeded to the discussion on the National Sports Policy put forward by The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports. The need for enforcing an anti-doping law was emphasized by multiple groups which took part in the discussion. Some issues regarding equality for male and female athletes were highlighted with possible solutions. Concerns over the budget and its usage were also raised. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports took into consideration all the points raised and responded with facts, statistics and the possible solutions it would further explore.