

House of Commons

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Introduction

- The strength of the house of commons is 650 members. They are elected on the basis of universal adult.
- The members must be (i) He must be the citizen of the Great Britain, (ii) He must attained the age of 21 years or more , (iii) Members of the house of lords, and persons convicted of corrupt practices cannot be members of the house of commons. The tenure of the House of Commons is five years.
- The house is presided by the speaker. Besides the speaker and Deputy Speakers, House has clerk of the House and assistant Clerks.
- The Speaker enforces the rules of the House, and may warn and punish Members who deviate from them. Disregarding the Speaker's instructions is considered a severe breach of the rules of the House, and may result in the suspension of the offender from the House. Privileges of the House of Commons- (i) Members have full freedom of expressing their views in the House and no action can be taken against them for views in the House. (ii) Members can not be arrested in a civil suit 40 days before and 40 days after the session .

Powers and functions

- The session of the House is convened by the King on the advice of the Prime Minister. The most important function of the house of commons is legislation.
- Rules relating to asking questions:- (i) Each member can send questions, either personally or by post. (ii) In order to get the answer of the questions, prior notice of the two days must be given. (iii) The answer to questions can be oral or written.
- Legislative functions- 90% of the ordinary bills are first introduced in the House of Commons and the house of Lords can just delay the ordinary bills passed by the House of Commons for one year only. The ministers explain, defend, and justify their Bill's in the house.

Powers and functions

- **Financial Functions** (i) Money bill can be introduced first in the House of commons only. (ii)If there is dispute whether the concerned bill is money bill or not, then the decision of the speaker of the House of the Commons is final.(iii) No tax can be imposed without the approval of the house of Commons.
- The house of commons also controls government spending. The ministers of the house requests for funds which are approved by the house. Hence the house oversees government spending

Powers and functions

- **Executive Powers** (i) Members of the House of Commons can ask questions about administration from the ministers and can criticize the ministers. (ii) Members of this house can draw the attention of the cabinet to any particular issue by moving Call attention, Motion, Adjournment Motion etc. House of Commons is allowed, and has the power to dismiss the executive. The House of Commons can hold a 'Vote of No Confidence' which, if it passes, means that the executive has to resign or call a new election.
- Due to the House of Commons being a lot more representative of the country they have a privileged position within parliament. They have the advantage during the billing process where when a decision between the two houses cannot be reached the House of Commons can have the overruling say.
- **Judicial Functions** (i) House of commons can recommended to the king the removal of the judges of high courts by carrying impeachment proceedings against them. (ii) It take action against members who commit contempt of the house.
- **Electoral Functions-** Members of this house elect Speaker and Deputy Speaker and others. The house of commons also keeps a check on the activities of the executive. Through question time a minister is asked on the floor of the house but the actions needed to be taken. Hence the administration remains constantly alert.

Conclusion

- The house of commons hence is an arena of debates, criticisms and airing of grievances.
- It hence occupies a responsible, supporting and watchful role in UK political system.