

ASSESSMENT OF THE WORKING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM IN INDIA

India adopted the **Parliamentary system of government** from the British model, where the **executive is accountable to the legislature**. The success of this system depends on coordination between the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, as well as responsible behavior from political parties and elected representatives.

Strengths of the Parliamentary System in India

1. Democratic Representation

- Ensures **people's participation** through elected representatives.
- Regular elections uphold the spirit of democracy.

2. Collective Responsibility

- The **Council of Ministers** is collectively responsible to the **Lok Sabha**.
- Promotes accountability and unity in decision-making.

3. Flexibility

- Adaptable to changing political circumstances (e.g., formation of coalition governments).
- Allows for **quick change of leadership** without a constitutional crisis.

4. Fusion of Powers

- Executive and Legislature work closely, enabling faster law-making and policy implementation.

5. Checks and Balances

- Parliament exercises control over the executive through:
 - **Question Hour**
 - **No-confidence motions**
 - **Parliamentary Committees**

Weaknesses and Challenges

1. Disruption of Parliamentary Proceedings

- Frequent disruptions, walkouts, and lack of debate dilute the quality of parliamentary functioning.

2. Weak Opposition

- A weak or fragmented opposition limits **constructive criticism** and debate in the House.

3. Party Whip System

- Discourages free speech among members due to the requirement of voting along party lines.

4. Executive Dominance

- The Prime Minister and Cabinet often overshadow the Parliament, weakening legislative scrutiny.

5. Coalition Politics

- In coalition governments, **policy compromises** may affect effective governance and national interest.

6. Criminalization and Corruption

- Increasing number of elected representatives with **criminal records** undermines the integrity of Parliament.

Suggestions for Improvement

1. **Strengthen Parliamentary Committees** for deeper policy and bill analysis.
2. **Reform the Anti-Defection Law** to allow reasonable dissent.
3. **Enforce stricter norms for attendance, debate, and conduct.**
4. **Reduce criminal elements in politics** through electoral reforms.
5. **Promote inner-party democracy** and reduce centralization of power within parties.

India's **Parliamentary system** has generally worked well in preserving democracy, ensuring representation, and holding the government accountable. However, challenges like disruptions, declining legislative productivity, and lack of ethical standards need urgent reform. With effective implementation of electoral, parliamentary, and political reforms, India can **strengthen the roots of its Parliamentary democracy** and ensure **better governance for its citizens**.