

Part 1

Composition of

Parliament

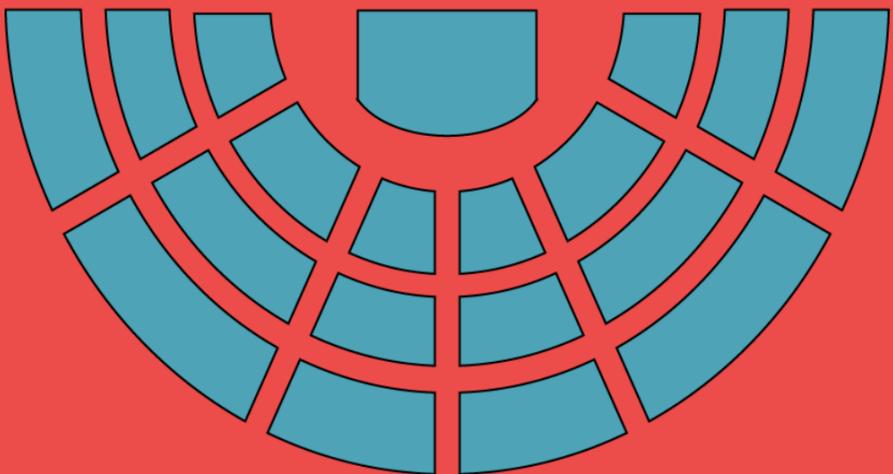


Indian Parliament

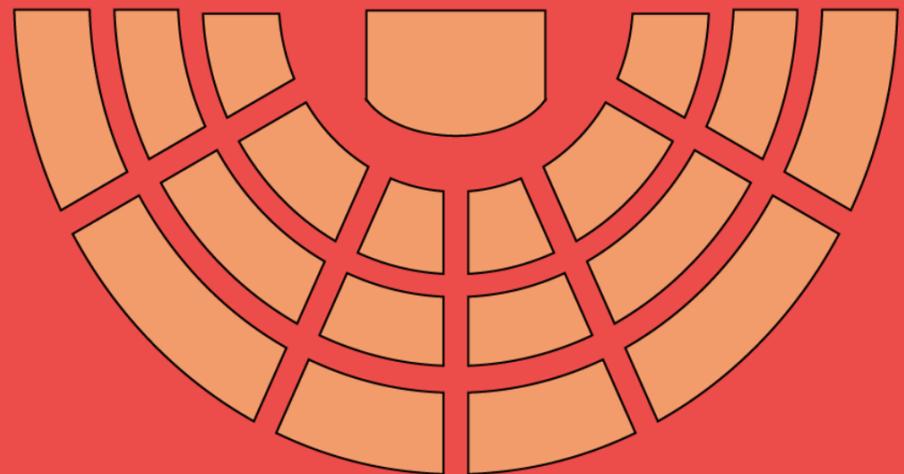


Lok Sabha

Rajya Sabha



543 seats



245 seats

Member of Parliament

An elected (and/or nominated) Member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

Private Member

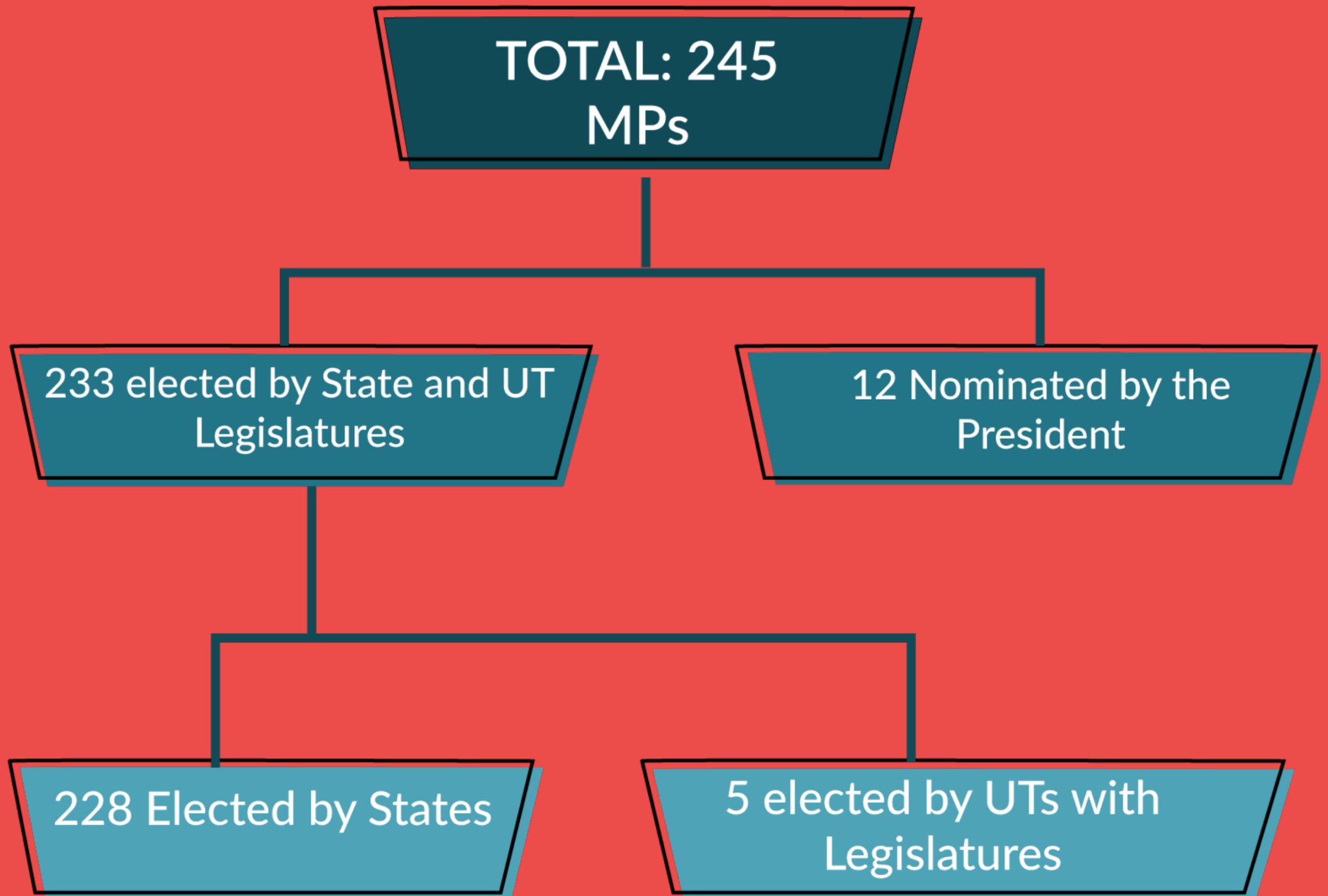
A Private member who is an MP of either House and is not a Minister in the government

Minister

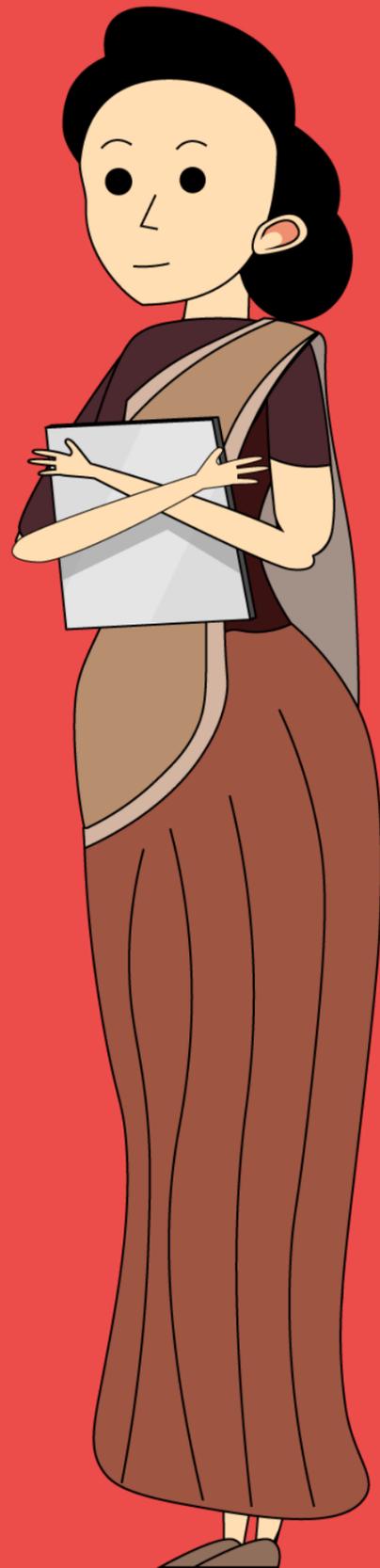
An MP who is also a Minister in the Union government

In order to be appointed as a Minister, an individual must be a MP. If they are not, they must be elected to either House within a period of 6 months from the date of appointment

What is the composition of the Rajya Sabha?



How long is the term of MPs in Rajya Sabha?



I am a Rajya Sabha MP. My term is for 6 years. Almost a third of my colleagues in the Rajya Sabha retire every two years.

Functions performed by the Rajya Sabha



It represents states' views by serving as the 'Federal Chamber'.



Being a permanent chamber, it gives Parliament a certain degree of continuity.



It serves as a 'Deliberative Chamber' providing an opportunity for MPs to reconsider bills, and debate and deliberate on crucial matters.



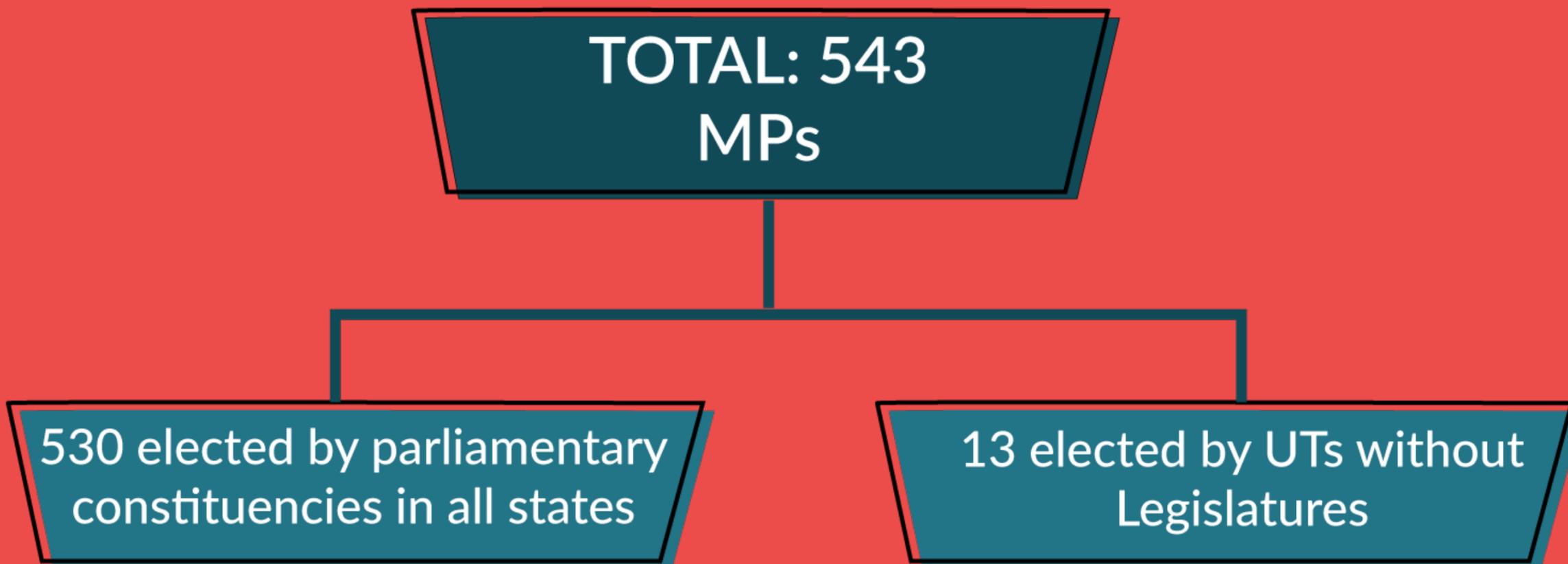
A second house allows the legislative procedure to be more thorough, examined by additional expertise of MPs and thus prevent hasty enactments.



It serves as an additional forum to debate matters more extensively which the Lok Sabha may not have the time for.

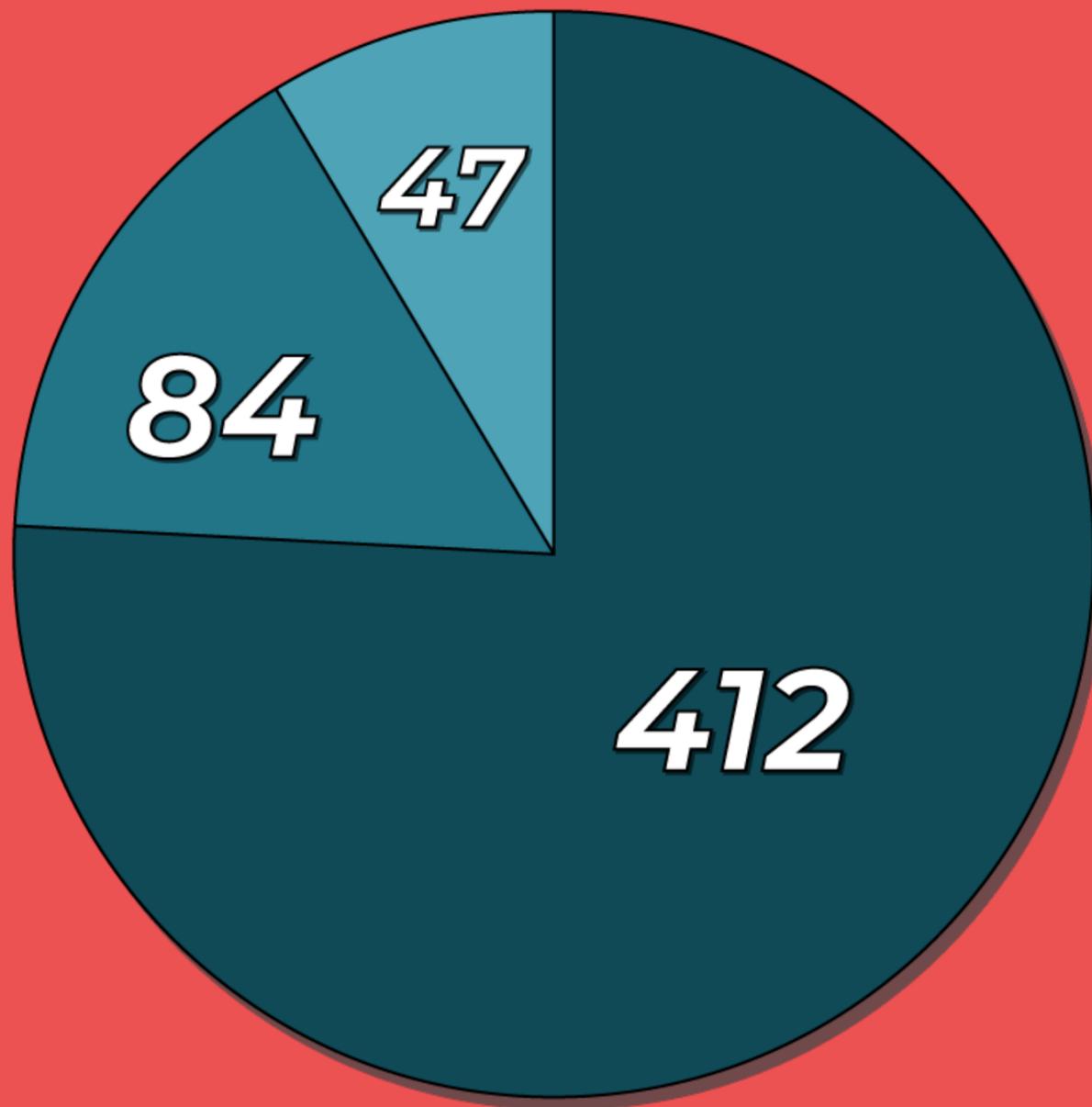
Lok Sabha

Composition of the Lok Sabha



The Constitution provides that the ratio of the number of seats and the population of the state is, as far as possible, the same for all states. The allocation of constituencies/seats to each state is based on population figures from the 1971 Census. For instance while Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of constituencies at 80, Goa has only 2.

Reserved and Non Reserved Seat Distribution



General Seats



Seats Reserved for Scheduled Caste persons



Seats Reserved for Scheduled Tribe persons

How long is the term of MPs in Lok Sabha?

I am a Lok Sabha MP. My term is for 5 years and is linked to the term of the Lok Sabha to which I belong. If the Lok Sabha itself is dissolved before the end of the 5-year term, fresh elections are held for all seats, including my own.



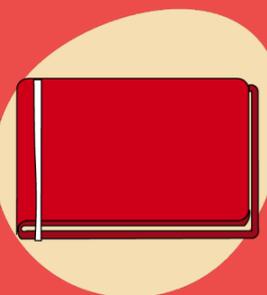
Functions performed by the Lok Sabha



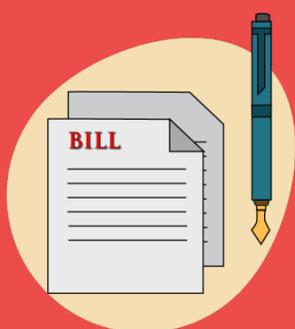
It is the primary expression of India's democratic set up.



The support of a majority of the Lok Sabha is required to form a government.



It passes bills and, most importantly passes the Union Budget



It has primary financial powers in certain cases, as compared to the Rajya Sabha, such as with respect to the passing of Money Bills.



It maintains control over the Executive branch of the government, as the Council of Ministers is accountable to the Lok Sabha.