Polity & Governance · GS - II

To what extent, in your view, is the Parliament able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary democracy, collective responsibility, Question Hour, Zero Hour, motions, no-confidence motion, parliamentary committees, budgetary control, executive dominance, disruptions, anti-defection law, accountability reforms.

Model Answer

Introduction

Under India's parliamentary system, the executive is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha under Article 75(3). Parliament therefore serves as a central mechanism for executive accountability.

Mechanisms of Accountability

- **Question Hour and Zero Hour:** Enable MPs to seek information and raise urgent public concerns.
- **Motions and debates:** Adjournment motions, censure motions and no-confidence motions scrutinise executive decisions.
- **Financial control:** Budget discussions, demands for grants and appropriation procedures subject public expenditure to parliamentary oversight.
- **Parliamentary committees:** Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee examine expenditure, administration and financial propriety.

- **Legislative scrutiny:** Parliamentary debates and committee examination can expose policy weaknesses and improve legislation.

Limitations

Executive dominance over the legislative agenda, frequent disruptions, inadequate sitting days, the use of party whips and limited scrutiny of some bills can weaken oversight. The executive's majority may also reduce the effectiveness of political accountability.

Way Forward

Increase parliamentary sitting days, strengthen committee scrutiny, provide adequate research support to MPs, protect meaningful opposition participation and ensure timely responses to parliamentary questions.

Conclusion

Parliament possesses substantial constitutional tools to hold the executive accountable, but their effectiveness depends on robust deliberation, institutional independence and constructive participation across party lines.

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