

2. Private Member's Bill

Prelims Level: Parliament

Mains Level: GS-II Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and Issues Arising out of these.

Why in News?

- Four Members of Parliament are ready with Private Member's Bill in the Lok Sabha to deal with the surging Unemployment Crisis.

What is a Private Member's Bill?

- Any MP who is not a Minister is referred to as a **private member**. The bill introduced by such an MP is designated as the **Private Member's Bill**.
- While **government Bills** can be introduced and **discussed on any day**, private member's Bills can be introduced and **discussed only on Fridays**.

What are the Bills to be Placed?

- **Unemployment Allowance Bill 2019** proposes doling out some form of unemployment allowance to jobless citizens.
- **Financial Assistance to Unemployed Post-Graduates Bill 2019** restricts the unemployment allowances to unemployed postgraduates only.
- **Unemployed Youth (Allowance and Employment Opportunities) Bill 2019** eyes the twin-purpose of generating gainful employment opportunities and payment of unemployment allowance.
- Another **Unemployment Allowance Bill** proposes unemployment allowances for jobless youth until they get gainful employment.

How such bills are admitted in Parliament?

- The admissibility is **decided** by the **Chairman for Rajya Sabha and Speaker in the case of Lok Sabha**. The procedure is roughly the same for both Houses:
- The Member must give at least a month's notice before the Bill can be listed for Introduction.
- The House secretariat examines it for compliance with constitutional provisions and rules on legislation before listing.

Has a private member's bill ever become a law?

- As per PRS Legislative, no private **member's Bill has been passed** by Parliament since 1970.

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- The last time a private member's bill was passed by both Houses was in 1970. It was the **Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968.**
 - To date, Parliament has passed 14 such Bills, six of them in 1956.
 - In the 14th Lok Sabha, of the over 300 private member's Bills introduced, roughly four per cent were discussed; the remaining 96 per cent lapsed without a single dialogue.

Why such Provisions are Needed?

- Any Government's bill introduced is mostly done by the Ministers from the ruling parties. Sometimes the public importance in few cases may be ignored by them.
- Such importance can be brought to the Parliament by the Private Members.

