



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Reviving a far sighted but forgotten bill mechanism

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Context

- **Private Member's Bills (PMBs)** are a mechanism through which **Members of Parliament (MP), who are not Ministers, can propose their own legislation.**
- In India's parliamentary system, most laws are introduced by the government, drafted by Ministries and tabled by Ministers.
- In contrast, **PMBs come from individual MPs, both ruling party or the Opposition.**
- In each session, **Fridays are usually reserved for discussion on PMBs.**
- PMBs are perhaps the **last remaining intervention wherein MPs are not strictly guided by party mandate.**
- Since Independence, **only 14 PMBs have been passed and received presidential assent and none has cleared both Houses since 1970.**
- In the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24), 729 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha and 705 in the Rajya Sabha. However, only two in the Lok Sabha and 14 in the Rajya Sabha were ever discussed.
- In the 18th Lok Sabha, only 20 MPs have introduced PMBs so far. During the inaugural and Budget Sessions of 2024, 64 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha, **but not a single one was discussed.**
- The **52nd Constitutional Amendment**, which introduced the **Anti-Defection Law** through the **Tenth Schedule**, aimed to ensure **political stability**. However, it has also had the **unintended effect of limiting the ability of MPs to independently question or deviate from their party's legislative agenda.**