

Types of Majorities

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What is the importance of majority in the Indian Legislature?

The **Parliament** of India, comprising the **President**, the **Rajya Sabha** (Council of States), and the **Lok Sabha** (House of the People), is the supreme legislative body of the country. One of the main functions of the Parliament is to make laws for the country's governance.

- The **law-making process** in the Parliament begins with the introduction of a bill and ends with the assent of the President.
- The majority in the Indian Parliament plays a crucial role in deciding the fate of bills and policies.
- The Indian Constitution does not explicitly categorize the types of majorities required for passing different bills, but the interpretation of the Constitution provides four types of majorities:
 - Simple majority
 - Absolute majority
 - Effective majority
 - Special majority

What are the different types of majorities?

Type of Majority	Constitutional Provisions	Application
Simple Majority: the majority of more than 50% of the members present and voting. It is also known as functional or working majority.	• Article 100: Voting in Houses, power of Houses to act notwithstanding vacancies and quorum • Article 108: Joint sitting of both Houses in certain cases. • Article 169: Abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States. • Article 356: President Rule.	• Ordinary bills need to be passed with a simple majority in both Houses of Parliament and the State Legislature. • Passing No-Confidence Motion, Adjournment Motion, Censure Motion, Confidence Motion, etc. • Passing of resolution declaring Financial Emergency, President's Rule. • Abolition or creation of the State Legislative Council. • Election of Speaker and deputy speaker in Lok Sabha etc.
Absolute majority: the majority of more than 50% of the House's total membership.	Note: Parliament or the State legislature does not use the absolute majority for normal business.	• Used for the formation of government at the Centre and States after the general elections.
Effective Majority: the majority of more than 50% of the effective strength of the House. Example of Effective strength: If 15 seats out of a total 545 seats in Lok Sabha are vacant. Then effective strength is $545 - 15 = 530$. In this case, the effective majority will be 265.	• Article 67(b): Removal of Vice President. • Article 90(c): Removal of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha • Article 94(c): Removal of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha	• Vice President of India may be removed through a Rajya Sabha resolution passed by an effective majority and later approved by the Lok Sabha (simple majority). • Removal of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures.

Special Majority Type-1: Majority by two-thirds of members present and voting.	• Article 249: Power of Parliament to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List in the national interest.	• Rajya Sabha, by passing a resolution under this majority, empowers the Parliament to make laws on subjects in the State List.
Special Majority Type-2: Majority of two-third members present and voting along with 50% of the total strength of the House.	• Article 368	• Part III: Fundamental Rights • Part IV: Directive Principles of State Policy • All other constitutional amendment provisions which are not covered by either a simple majority or special majority type-3.
Special Majority Type-3: A majority of two-thirds members present and voting supported by more than 50% of the state legislatures by a simple majority.	• Special majority under Article 368 passed by the Parliament and ratification by 50% of the states by a Simple majority.	Used to pass Constitutional Amendment bills involving federal matters: • Election of the President and its manner. • Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states. • Supreme Court and High Courts. • Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States. • Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule. • Representation of States in Parliament. • Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368).

Special Majority Type-4: Majority of 2/3rd of the total strength of the House.	• Article 61: Impeachment of President	• The President can be removed from his office before the completion of his term of 5 years by the procedure of impeachment for 'violation of the Constitution'. • Both Houses of the Parliament need to pass the motion by 2/3rd of the total strength of the House.
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