



Privilege Motion

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Recently, a member of the Indian parliament has **moved a privilege motion** against a TV channel.

- The breach of privilege motion is moved against a private Hindi news channel and its Editor for **reporting that members' first speech in the Lok Sabha was plagiarised**.
Plagiarism is a practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.
- Parliamentary privileges are **certain rights** and **immunities** enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can **effectively discharge their functions**.
- The **Constitution (Article 105)** mentions two privileges, i.e. **freedom of speech in Parliament** and **right of publication of its proceedings**.
- **Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book** and correspondingly **Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook** governs **privilege**.
- The **Speaker of Lok Sabha** and **Rajya Sabha Chairperson** is the **first level of scrutiny** of a privilege motion.
 - The **Speaker/Chairperson can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself** or **refer it to the privileges committee** of Parliament.
 - If the Speaker/Chairperson gives consent under respective rules, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

Privilege Committee

- **Lok Sabha:** The **Speaker nominates** a committee of privileges **consisting of 15 members** as per respective party strengths.
- **Rajya Sabha:** The **deputy chairperson** heads the committee of privileges, that **consists of 10 members**.