



Motion of Thanks

Why in News

Recently, a debate on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address was held in Lok Sabha.

President's Address

- **Article 87** provides for the special address by the President. The article provides that at the commencement of the **first session after each general election to the House of the People** and at the commencement of the **first session of each year**, the President shall address **both Houses of Parliament assembled together** and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.
- Such an Address is called '**special address**', and it is also an **annual** feature.
- No other business is transacted till the President has addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together.
- This Address has to be to both Houses of Parliament assembled together.
 - If at the time of commencement of the first session of the year, Lok Sabha is not in existence and has been dissolved, and Rajya Sabha has to meet. And Rajya Sabha can have its session without the President's Address.
 - In 1977, during the dissolution of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha had its session on 28 February 1977 without the President's Address.
- In the case of the first session after each general election to Lok Sabha, the President addresses both Houses of Parliament assembled together after the members have made and subscribed the oath or affirmation and the Speaker has been elected.

Content of the President of Address

- The President's Address is the statement of policy of the Government and, as such, is drafted by the Government.
- The Address contains a review of various activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies, projects and programmes which Government of the day wishes to pursue with regard to the important national and international issues.
- The Address also indicates, in broad terms, items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought during the sessions to be held in that year.

Discussion on the Address by Motion of Thanks

- The address of the president, which corresponds to the 'speech from the Throne in Britain', is discussed in **both the Houses of Parliament** on a motion called the '**Motion of Thanks**'.
- It is available to the members of Parliament to raise discussions and debates to examine and criticise the government and administration for its lapses and failures.
- Generally, **three days** are allotted for the **discussion** on the Motion of Thanks.
- If any of the amendments are put forward and accepted then the Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form.

- Amendments may refer to matters contained in the Address as well as to matters which, in the opinion of the member, the Address has failed to mention.
- At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote.

Significance of Motion of Thanks

- The Motion of Thanks **must be passed in the House**. Otherwise, it amounts to the **defeat of the government**. It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a lack of confidence in the government. The other ways are:
 - Rejection of a **money bill**.
 - Passing a censure motion or an adjournment motion.
 - The defeat of the government on a vital issue.
 - Passing a cut motion.

Source: IE

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