

Bihar Floor Test

Why in News?

Recently, the Janata Dal (United) coalition government in Bihar won the **confidence motion** by 129 votes.

Key Points

- Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD's) three <u>Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs)</u> were seen sitting on the ruling party benches in the Bihar Assembly.
- The RJD leader raised a **point of order**, taking objection to party MLAs sitting among members of the ruling party, ahead of voting on a **no-confidence motion**.
- The RJD coalition government won the motion of confidence for his government after the resolution was supported by 129 MLAs.
- The Bihar assembly also passed the no-confidence motion against Bihar Assembly Speaker and RJD leader Awadh Bihari Choudhary.
 - The no-confidence motion against the leader was passed with the support of 125 members.
- However, no ruling was given on the point of order by Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari, who was in the Chair.

Point of Order

- A member can raise a **point of order** when the proceedings of the House do not follow the normal rules of procedure.
- A point of order should relate to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of the House or such articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the House and **should raise a question that is within the cognizance of the Speaker.**
- It is **usually raised by an opposition member** in order to control the government. It is an extraordinary device as it suspends the proceedings before the House.
- No debate is allowed on a point of order.

No-Confidence Motion

- This is a motion moved in the <u>Lok Sabha</u> (and not in the Rajya Sabha) to test the confidence of the government.
- The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
- If a **no-confidence motion** is passed, the government must resign.
- **No-confidence motions** are significant political events that usually occur when there is a perception of the government **losing majority support.**

Floor Test

- It is a term used for the test of the majority. If there are doubts against the Chief Minister
 (CM) of a State, he/she can be asked to prove the majority in the House.
 - In case of a coalition government, the CM may be asked to move a vote of confidence and

win a majority.

- In the absence of a clear majority, when there is more than one individual staking claim to form the government, the Governor may call for a special session to see who has the majority to form the government.
 - Some legislators may be absent or choose not to vote. The numbers are then considered based only on those MLAs who were present to vote.

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