



## Motion of Thanks

**For Prelims:** Motions in Parliament, Pegasus spyware, Covid-19 pandemic

**For Mains:** Parliament, Motions in Parliament

### Why in News

Recently, amendments to the [Motion of Thanks to the President's Address](#) were proposed (However, not passed).

- The amendment proposal mentioned the government's alleged use of [Pegasus spyware](#) and its handling of the [Covid-19 pandemic](#).

### What is the Motion of Thanks?

- **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.
- This Address has to be to both Houses of Parliament assembled together.

### What is the 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 the 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.
- 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**'.
- 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**.

### What is the 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.**

| <b>Other Motions in Indian Parliament</b> |  |
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| <b>Privilege Motion</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is <b>moved by a member when he feels that a minister has committed a breach</b> or more of its members by withholding facts of a case or by giving wrong or distorted information to the <b>concerned minister.</b></li> <li>▪ It <b>can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Censure Motion</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It <b>should state the reasons</b> for its adoption in the Lok Sabha. It <b>can be moved against a group of ministers</b> or the entire council of ministers.</li> <li>▪ It is moved <b>to censure the council of ministers</b> for specific policies and actions. It <b>can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Call-Attention Motion</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is introduced in the Parliament by a member <b>to call the attention of a minister to a matter of public importance,</b> and to seek an authoritative statement from him on that matter.</li> <li>▪ It <b>can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Adjournment Motion</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is introduced in the Lok Sabha <b>to draw the attention of the House to a definite issue of public importance.</b> It <b>involves an element of censure against the government.</b></li> <li>▪ It <b>can be moved only in Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>No-Day-Yet-Named Motion</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is a motion that has been admitted by the Speaker but <b>no date has been fixed for its discussion.</b></li> <li>▪ It <b>can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>No Confidence Motion</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Article 75 of the Constitution</b> says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. In other words, <b>the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a motion of no confidence.</b></li> <li>▪ It <b>needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.</b></li> <li>▪ It <b>can be moved only in Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Cut Motions</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A cut motion is <b>a special power vested in members of the Lok Sabha to oppose a specific allocation by the government</b> in the Finance Bill as part of the Demand for Grants.</li> <li>▪ If the motion is adopted, <b>it amounts to a no-confidence vote,</b> and if the government is defeated, the government or the minister in charge of the House, it is obliged to resign according to the norms of the House.</li> <li>▪ A motion may be moved to reduce the amount of a demand in any of the following ways:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Policy Cut Motion:</b> It is moved so that the amount of the demand be reduced (to express disapproval of the <b>policy underlying the demand).</b></li> <li>◦ <b>Economy Cut Motions:</b> It is moved so that the amount of the demand will be reduced (to express disapproval of the <b>expenditure on the demand).</b></li> <li>◦ <b>Token Cut Motions:</b> It is moved so that the amount of the demand is reduced (to express disapproval of the <b>grievance).</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ It <b>can be moved only in Lok Sabha.</b></li> </ul> |

**Source:** [TH](https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/motion-of-thanks-2)

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