

1. Substantive Motion – Polity

A substantive motion has been moved by the ruling party against the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, invoking a serious parliamentary procedure to censure or penalize a member for alleged misconduct. Unlike routine debates, this is a self-contained proposal that, if admitted by the Speaker and passed, results in a binding decision by the House.

A substantive motion has been moved by a leader of the ruling party against the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. This marks a significant parliamentary procedure where the House is asked to make a binding decision regarding a specific member's conduct.

About Substantive Motion

Definition – It is an independent proposal placed before the House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) seeking a clear and binding decision.

Self-Contained Nature – It is complete in itself and does not depend on or link to any other business currently under discussion. It allows the House to express a formal opinion or will on a specific, distinct matter.

Examples

1. Motion for the election of the Deputy Chairman.
2. Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
3. Motion to declare the seat of a member vacant (where leave of absence is not granted).
4. Motion for the impeachment of the President or removal of constitutional authorities.

Procedural Requirements

Speaker's Approval – Under the Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha, such a motion can only be admitted with the approval of the Speaker.

Speaker's Discretion – The Speaker has full discretion to accept or reject the notice and decide the timing and manner of the debate.

Notice Requirement

1. A substantive motion requires prior notice.
2. It can generally be moved only by the member who has given the notice.
3. *Exception* – If a motion stands in the name of a Minister, it may be moved by another Minister, provided they state they are moving it on behalf of the original mover.

Requirement of Seconding

General Rule – No substantive motion requires to be seconded.

Exceptions – The Motion for Election of the Deputy Chairman and the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address *must* be seconded.

Key Distinctions

vs. Routine Discussions – Unlike daily interventions or short-duration discussions, a substantive motion compels the House to directly consider a specific issue and take a vote/position on it.

Conduct of High Authorities – The conduct of persons in high authority (e.g., Judges, CEC) can **only** be discussed through a substantive motion drawn in proper terms, ensuring the dignity of the office is maintained during debate.

Past Instances of Disciplinary Motions (Lok Sabha)

The following table highlights instances where substantive motions were used to address misconduct by Members of Parliament –

Year & Case	Nature of Misconduct	Action Taken by Lok Sabha
2005 – Cash-for-Query Scam	10 MPs accepted money to ask questions in Parliament.	Enquiry committee (headed by Pawan Kumar Bansal) reported; House adopted motion to expel all 10 members.

2006 – MPLADS Improper Conduct	4 MPs involved in misconduct regarding MPLADS scheme implementation.	Following similar procedural steps, members were reprimanded and suspended.
2007 – Rajesh Kumar Manjhi Case	Misuse of official air travel facilities (taking a companion on official tour).	Committee report led to suspension for 30 sittings and restriction on official tour privileges.
2008 – Babubhai K. Katara Case	Human trafficking/immigration fraud (misusing diplomatic passport).	The committee found grave misconduct; House adopted a motion to expel the member.

Motion

A motion in parliamentary terms is an official suggestion made by a member of the House requesting that the House –

1. Take a specific action.
2. Implement an order.
3. Express an opinion on a particular issue.

It is crafted specifically so that if adopted, it becomes the decision of the House.

Classification of Motions

A. Substitute Motion

1. Moved in substitution of an original motion.
2. It proposes an alternative to the original issue.
3. Effect – If adopted by the House, it supersedes and replaces the original motion entirely.
4. *Constraint* – It must relate to the same subject matter as the original motion.

B. Subsidiary Motion – These motions have no meaning on their own; they depend upon or relate to another "original" motion. They are further classified into –

Type	Purpose	Example
Ancillary Motion	Moved as a regular way of proceeding with business to aid in the disposal of the main motion.	"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee."
Superseding Motion	Moved during the debate to supersede or interrupt the current question/debate.	"That the debate be adjourned."
Amendment Motion	Seeks to modify, vary, or alter a part of the original motion without completely replacing it.	Changing a date or figure in a resolution.

Important Special Motions

No-Confidence Motion – Moves to express lack of confidence in the Council of Ministers. Can be moved only in Lok Sabha. If passed, the government must resign.

Censure Motion – Expresses disapproval of specific policies or actions of the government or an individual minister. Unlike No-Confidence, the government need not resign if this is passed (though it is embarrassing).

Adjournment Motion – Raised to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance. It suspends normal business of the House. Needs the support of at least 50 members to be admitted.

Calling Attention Motion – Enables a member to call the attention of a Minister to a matter of urgent public importance. The Minister makes a brief statement.

Note – This is an **Indian innovation** in parliamentary procedure (since 1954).

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