

1. Ethics Committee- Polity

No privileges or ethics committee in Lok Sabha for 2 yrs

The Ethics Committee of the 18th Lok Sabha remains unconstituted nearly two years into its term, hindering the formal mechanism for examining members' unethical conduct. While the Rajya Sabha has maintained a 10-member committee since 1997, the Lok Sabha's 15-member body—permanent since 2015—specifically handles misconduct affidavits routed through MPs to uphold the moral dignity of the House.

1. Composition and Genesis

Structure- The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. Each member serves a term of one year.

Historical Timeline-

- 1996- The idea was first proposed at a Presiding Officers' Conference.
- 1997- The Rajya Sabha became the first house to establish an Ethics Committee.
- 2000- An ad hoc Ethics Committee was created in the Lok Sabha under Speaker G.M.C. Balayogi.
- 2015- The committee was finally made a permanent fixture of the Lok Sabha.

2. Functions and Complaint Procedure

The committee acts as a "moral watchdog" for the House.

Mandate- It examines complaints of unethical conduct by members referred to it by the Speaker.

Filing a Complaint- * Any citizen can file a complaint, but it must be routed through a Lok Sabha MP.

- The complainant must provide evidence and a sworn affidavit (unless the complainant is an MP themselves) to prevent "false or vexatious" claims.

Restrictions- The committee cannot act based solely on media reports or matters that are currently *sub judice* (under judicial consideration).

Inquiry Process-

- The Committee performs a prima facie inquiry.
- If merit is found, a full examination is conducted.
- A report is submitted to the Speaker, which is then tabled in the House for

3. Comparison- Lok Sabha vs. Rajya Sabha Ethics Committees

Feature	Lok Sabha Ethics Committee	Rajya Sabha Ethics Committee
Membership	15 Members	10 Members
Appointing Authority	Speaker of Lok Sabha	Chairman of Rajya Sabha
Tenure	Fixed One-year term	Holds office until a new committee is formed
Permanent Status	Since 2015	Since its inception in 1997

4. Ethics Committee vs. Privileges Committee

It is common to confuse these two bodies as their jurisdictions often overlap, particularly in cases of financial corruption or "Cash-for-query" scandals.

Jurisdiction-

- Ethics Committee- Deals exclusively with the personal misconduct and moral behavior of MPs.
- Privileges Committee- Focuses on the authority and dignity of the House. It can initiate proceedings against both MPs and non-members (outsiders) who undermine Parliament's power.

Severity- Cases involving very serious legal breaches are typically shifted to the Privileges Committee, while behavior-related issues stay with the Ethics Committee.

Conclusion

The Ethics Committee is a vital institutional mechanism to ensure the accountability of lawmakers. Its absence in the 18th Lok Sabha limits the formal channels available to address the moral conduct of members, leaving such matters to the discretion of the Speaker or other committees.

Source- <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2026/Feb/19/no-privileges-or-ethics-committee-in-lok-sabha-for-2-yrs>

