

Daily Mains Practice Answer 23-09-2026

Q. The decline in the number of sittings of legislatures has weakened their constitutional role as instruments of executive accountability. Examine. (10 marks, 150 words)

Direction: Intro----Decline in sittings weakens accountability----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Briefly describe declining legislative sittings with some data.

- 2026 Budget Session - Both Houses meet for 31 sittings, demonstrating that the issue is also about quality and allocation of parliamentary time, not simply its quantity.
- 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24) - Averaged only 55 sittings per year.
- State legislatures show an even sharper decline - Their average sittings have fallen from around 80 days or more in the 1950s-60s to about 25 days today.
- Uttar Pradesh - Assembly sittings were 45-50 days annually in the 1970s, compared with around 15-20 days in recent years.
- Karnataka's sittings have similarly declined despite an earlier law prescribing a minimum of 60 days.

Main Body

How fewer sittings weaken executive accountability?

- Question Hour loses effectiveness
- Reduced legislative scrutiny - Less House time means fewer opportunities for detailed discussion of Bills, policies and government programmes.
- Weakening of representative functions - MPs and MLAs require adequate sitting time to raise concerns.
- Reduced financial accountability - Adequate time is required for legislative scrutiny of taxation, expenditure and government programmes, etc.
- Executive dominance - Decline in sittings provides fewer occasions for the executive to face sustained questioning.

Problems beyond fewer sittings

- Frequent disruptions
- Absenteeism
- Poor preparation by legislators
- Limited committee scrutiny

- Hasty passage of Bills
- Party polarisation
- Weak utilisation of parliamentary devices.

Conclusion:

Give a neutral conclusion and suggest some measures.

The way forward is not simply “more sittings” but “more meaningful sittings”.

