Joint Parliamentary Committee

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Why in News?

Recently, the government constituted a joint committee of Parliament on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill 2026.

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

- **JPC –** It is a temporary (ad-hoc) committee of Parliament set up to investigate a specific issue or scandal.
- It is formed by a motion passed in one House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) and agreed to by the other House.
- **Purpose –** To examine a particular matter of public importance (e.g., stock market scam, pesticide residues, Bofors deal, 2G spectrum).
- **Nature –** "Ad-hoc" exists only for the duration needed to complete its inquiry and submit a report.
- **Membership –** Includes MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in a ratio fixed by the motion (e.g., 20 LS + 10 RS for the 2001 stock market scam JPC; 10 LS + 5 RS for the 2003 pesticides JPC).
- **Terms of Reference –** Defined in the motion; can include:
  - Investigating financial irregularities
  - Fixing responsibility on persons/institutions
  - Identifying regulatory loopholes
  - Making recommendations for reform
- **Powers –** Can call for documents, summon officials, and record testimonies. Members can submit dissent notes if they disagree with the majority view.
- **Outcome –** Submits a report to Parliament; recommendations are persuasive, not binding on the government.
- **Follow-up –** Government must submit an Action Taken Report (ATR); Parliament can discuss it and question the government.

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Major Joint Parliamentary Committees (JPCs) formed since Independence

S. No.	JPC	Issue	Year
1	Bofors Contracts	Related to the defence deal scandal.	1987
2	Securities and Banking Transactions	Concerning irregularities identified in 1992.	1992
3	Stock Market Scam	Investigated in 2001.	2001
4	Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks	Examined in 2003.	2003

References

1. News on Air | JPC
2. PRS | JPC