

## Parliament must open

India is the largest democracy of the world. Placed above the bedrock of parliamentary form of governance, which is adjourned since March. The emergency of pandemic & halt of judiciary demands the opening of legislature to check executive.

The closure of parliament has provided unlimited and unquestionable power to executive. Hence opening of parliament is necessary for following reasons.

(i) Avoids misuse - Elections are due in May & disempowering state election chief of Andhra Pradesh Rakesh Kumar are examples, how ruling party is in beneficial position vis-a-vis other party.

→ legislature provides platform to other parties to raise awareness among people.

(ii) Corruption - civil society, protests and judiciary media are unapproachable to governance. For example PM CARE fund.

Opposition can raise question about expenditure in parliament.

- (iii) Federalism - In the absence of Rajyasabha, several ordinances have bypassed states concerns.
- (iv) Sovereignty of India was threatened in opaque border handling.
- (v) Parliamentary committees are unable to check or provide comprehension to the laws and ordinances & reports.

- (vi) Fundamental rights - police excess, migrant issue, domestic violence, encounters etc goes unquestioned without parliament.

Thus, there is urgent need to find alternative ways to open parliament such as :-

- (i) Video conferencing - being IT giant, its unfortunate that parliament remained closed, while SAARC & other multilateral conferences were held through videos.
- (ii) Alternate days - like many government offices parliament can either open on alternate day or members can attend in alternate days.
- (iii) Quorum parliament - with 10% attendance consisting proportional representation of all parties parliament can be open.
- (iv) extra health protection & physical distancing can be maintained during parliament meetings.