

No-Trust Vote

By IASToppers | 2023-07-28 15:10:00



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Some **members of parliament (MP)** have recently moved a **no-confidence motion** against the government in response to the violent situation in **Manipur**.



[Ref- The Wire]

What is No Confidence Motion?

- The no-confidence motion signifies that **one or more MPs** have lost the **confidence** in the appointed government.
- In a **parliamentary democracy**, a government can be in power only if it **commands a majority** in the **directly elected House** or the Lok Sabha.
- **Article 75(3)** of the Constitution specifies that the **Council of Ministers (CoM)** are **collectively responsible** to the **Lok Sabha** (Lower House).
 - So, it can **only be introduced** in the Lok Sabha.
- The principle of **collective responsibility** implies that all the **CoM** has to resign even if it is passed against a **single minister** or **Prime Minister**.
 - However, Prime Minister is **not** bound to resign if the motion is passed against a single minister and **not** him or her directly.
- It allows the opposition to **challenge** the **government's majority** and **ability to govern**.

Procedure for No-Confidence Motion:

- Any **Member of Parliament (MP)** of Lok Sabha who gets the **support of 50 members**, can introduce a motion of **no-confidence** against the CoM, at any **time**.
- The motion must be in the written form, **signed by** the **members**, and **submitted** to the **Speaker** of the Lok Sabha on a sitting day.
- The member must provide **written notice** of the motion before **10 am**, and the Speaker should read it in the House.
- According to the **rules of procedure** of **Lok Sabha**, the **Speaker** shall **specify** the **date** on which the debate would begin.
 - This date should be **within 10 days** from the date the motion was accepted in the House.
- It is followed by a **discussion** on the motion.
- **Article 74** of the Indian constitution specifies that the **Prime Minister (PM)** is the **head** of the **Council of Ministers**.
 - Thus, the **PM responds** to the **debate** whenever MPs discuss a no-confidence motion.
- MPs who support the motion **highlights** the **government's shortcomings**, and the **Treasury**

Benches respond to the issues raised by them.

- After the debate, the Lok Sabha **votes** on the motion.
- If the **motion** is **passed**, the government must **resign**.
- If the **government wins** the **vote**, the motion is **defeated**, and the government **remains** in the power.

Purpose of a no-confidence motion:

- It has historically been used as a **strategic tool** to **force** a **discussion** on a certain **topic** or **issue**.
- It helps to **test** the **collective responsibility** of the government.
- It helps to establish the **accountability** of the government.
- It **challenges** the **government** even after it has won a **majority** after election.
- It helps the opposition to ask the PM to reply to the charges and **debate** in the parliament.

History of No-confidence motion in India:

- 27 no-confidence motions have been moved since **Independence**.
- The **first motion** of no confidence was moved by **Acharya J B Kriplani** against the government during the **third Lok Sabha** in **1963**.
- **Most no-confidence** motions were defeated, with the **exception** of Prime Minister's resignation before voting in **1979**, and the **loss** by one vote in **1999**.
- The **most recent motion** was moved against the government in **2018**.