

Nomination of Members	The provision of nomination of members to the Rajya Sabha by the President is a very uncommon provision. The role played by these nominated members has never been scrutinised and thus question the principles of democracy. Nomination of Sachin Tendulkar or Vijay Mallya raises this question.
Partisanship	It was envisaged that the members in Rajya Sabha will not be bound by Party politics and thus will provide non-partisan view for the development of whole nation. However, it has not been the case especially after the addition of anti-defection law.

WAY FORWARD:

Learning from BJD and NCP	BJD and NCP have never ventured into the well, even though they have made their points effectively. All political parties, including the treasury benches, can learn from these practices.
Centre State relations	It is imperative for discussions and debates on "centre-state relations" to be held along with debates on the state of the nation's health and education. Rajya Sabha need to play key role in this regard.
Infrastructure	The House must get access to bills much earlier and members should get resources, such as research staff, to allow them to study issues in more depth and members be allotted more time for their speeches
Relook at nominated members	Instead of eradicating the nomination principles, the number of nominated members should be extended and not diminished given that the parties take a pledge to have right nominations as it brings in new perspectives.

CONCLUSION: Any institution is as good and bad as the people elected to that institution. Still Rajya Sabha has played a major role in Indian polity by not limiting itself to the ideas and constituency politics of the Lower House. It can play a role of friend, philosopher and guide to the Lower House. As accepted by former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Rajya Sabha is the second House but not secondary House.

SHISHIR GUPTA

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