

- It secures **at least six percent** of the **valid votes polled** in the State at a general election, either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned
- In addition, it wins **at least two seats** in the **Legislative Assembly** of the **State concerned**.
- It wins at **least three percent (3%)** of the **total number of seats** in the Legislative Assembly of the State, or at least three seats in the Assembly, whichever is more.

#### BENEFITS OF SUCH RECOGNITION:

- The biggest advantage of being recognized is getting the **reserved symbol**.
- They also **get broadcast/telecast facilities** over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.
- The **travel expenses of star campaigners** are **not to be accounted** for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.

#### MOTION OF THANKS

##### WHY IN NEWS?

As many as 50 speakers from 25 political parties participated in the debate in Rajya Sabha on the Motion of Thanks lasting over three days.

##### ABOUT

- The President makes an **address to a joint sitting of Parliament** at the start of the Budget session, which is prepared by the government and lists its achievements.
- The address is **followed by a motion of thanks** moved in each House by ruling party MPs. During the session, **political parties discuss** the motion of thanks also **suggesting amendments**.

##### AMENDMENTS TO THE "MOTION OF THANKS":

- Notices of amendments to Motion of Thanks on the President's Address can be **tabled after the President has delivered his Address**.
- Amendments may refer to **matters contained in the Address** as well as **to matters**, in the **opinion of the member**, the Address has failed to mention.
- Amendments can be moved to the Motion of Thanks in **such form** as may be considered appropriate by the Speaker.

#### LIMITATIONS:

- The only limitations are that members cannot refer to matters which are **not the direct responsibility of the Central Government** and that the name of the **President cannot be brought in during the debate** since the Government and **not the President is responsible** for the contents of the Address.

#### GOVERNING PROVISIONS:

- President's Address and Motion of Thanks are governed by **Articles 86 (1) and 87 (1)** of the Constitution and **Rules 16 to 24** of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

#### PASSAGE OF MOTION:

- Members of Parliament **vote** on this motion of thanks. This motion must be **passed in both of the houses**.
- A failure to get motion of thanks passed amounts to **defeat of government** and **leads to collapse of government**. This is why the Motion of Thanks is deemed to be a **no-confidence motion**.

#### PRESIDENT'S RULE (ART. 356)

##### WHY IN NEWS?

The Supreme Court has dismissed a PIL that sought imposition of President's rule in Uttar Pradesh for alleged breakdown of constitutional machinery and rising crime in the state.

##### ABOUT

- President's Rule implies the **suspension of a state government** and the **imposition of direct rule of the Centre**.
- It is also known as '**State Emergency**' or '**Constitutional Emergency**'.

##### USE OF ARTICLE 356:

- The Supreme Court in **Bommai case (1994)** **enlisted the situations** where the exercise of power under **Article 356** could be proper.
- One such situation is that of '**Hung Assembly**', i.e. where after general elections to the assembly, **no party secures a majority**.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS: