

1. DISCUSS THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR ENACTMENT OF UNION BUDGET.

Budget refers to 'annual financial statement' as has been mentioned and dealt with in Article 112 of the Constitution. A statement of estimated receipt and expenditure of the government for every financial year is laid by the President of India before both the Houses of the Parliament. No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the President.

The Constitution provides that no money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law. No money bill relating to tax shall be introduced in the Parliament except on the recommendation of the President, and such a bill shall not be introduced in Rajya Sabha. Further, no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law. Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it.

The Constitution has also defined the relative roles or position of both the Houses of Parliament with regard to the enactment of the budget in the following manners.

A money bill or finance bill dealing with taxation cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

The Rajya Sabha does not enjoy the power to vote on the demand for grants. It is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha.

The Rajya Sabha should return the Money Bill or Finance Bill to the Lok Sabha within fourteen days. The Lok Sabha can either accept or reject the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.

The estimates of expenditure found in the budget shall show separately the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and the expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. The budget shall distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure. Charged expenditure shall not be submitted to the vote of parliament. It can only be discussed by the Parliament.