

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Political Science & International Relations

Topic- Lapsing of Bill-Indian Polity

There are many types of bills in the Indian Parliament which are introduced in either house of the Parliament to legislate for a concerned subject. However, there are cases where bills lapse before they can be made an act. Article 107 deals with certain situations under which bills lapse in Indian Parliament. In both central legislature and the state legislature, the rule of lapse for bills is similar with slight variation. The topic 'Lapsing of Bills' is important for IAS Exam as questions from here have been asked before in UPSC Prelims and are always expected in UPSC Mains and Interview.

1. When does a Bill Lapse in Parliament?

The position of the bills in either house of the parliament- Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha varies with respect to the circumstances in the parliament. The dissolution of Lok Sabha is followed by lapsing of all business including bills, motions, resolutions, and notices, petitions and so on pending before it or its committees. However, there are a few bills which do not lapse even on its dissolution.

The table below explains which bills in what position lapse when Lok Sabha dissolves:

S.No	Position of the Bill	Lapse of the Bill
1	A bill pending in the Lok Sabha	Lapses
2	A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha	Lapses
3	A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the president has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha	Does not Lapse
4	A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha	Does not Lapse
5	A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president	Does not Lapse
6	A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the president for reconsideration of Houses	Does not Lapse

For example, on September 7, 1990, 74th Constitutional Amendment Bill was introduced in Parliament which later lapsed on the dissolution of Lok Sabha.

2. When does a Bill Lapse in State Legislature?

The position with respect to lapsing of bills on the dissolution of the assembly is mentioned in the table below:

S.No	Position of the Bill	Lapse of the Bill
1	A Bill pending in the assembly (Whether originating in the assembly or transmitted to it by the council)	Lapses
2	A Bill passed by the assembly but pending in the council	Lapses
3	A Bill pending in the council but not passed by the assembly	Does not Lapse
4	A Bill passed by the assembly (in a unicameral state) or passed by both the houses (in a bicameral state) but pending assent of the governor or the President	Does not Lapse
5	A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the president	Does not Lapse
6	A Bill passed by the assembly (in a unicameral state) or passed by both the Houses (in a bicameral state) but returned by the president for reconsideration of House (s)	Does not Lapse

Lapse of Bills- Facts for UPSC

There are a few key-points with respect to the bills lapse which can be remembered by the candidates. These points can help fetch marks in UPSC Prelims as these are easy to remember:

- Once a bill lapses, it has to be introduced again in the Central/State legislature and all necessary steps are required to be taken again
- Prorogation has no effect on a pending bill
- All motions, resolutions, amendments etc. pending in the Lok Sabha lapse on its dissolution