

# Whip

May 13, 2020

## What is a whip?

- A whip is an official of a political party who acts as the **party's 'enforcer' inside the legislative assembly or house of parliament**. He is responsible for the party's discipline and behaviour on the floor of the House.
- Parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue whips – this member is called a Chief Whip, and he/she is assisted by additional Whips. India inherited the concept of the whip from the British parliamentary system.
- A legislator may **face disqualification** proceedings if she/he disobeys the whip of the party unless the number of lawmakers defying the whip is 2/3rds of the party's strength in the house. Disqualification is decided by the Speaker of the house.
- However, there are some cases such as **Presidential elections** where whips cannot direct a Member of Parliament (MP) or Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) to vote in a particular fashion.
- The office of 'whip', is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the **conventions of the parliamentary government**.

## Types of whips

- One-line whip is issued to inform members of a party about a vote. It allows a member to abstain in case they decide not to follow the party line.
- Two-line whip is issued to direct the members to be present in the House at the time of voting.
- Three-line whip is issued to members directing them to

vote as per the party line.