

As desired, I am submitting a feedback concerning the customised training on "Parliamentary Training".

The training was very well structured, clearly presented and interactive. It provided me a better understanding of the British parliamentary system and a free and frank exchange of views with the distinguished speakers and the organisers on various parliamentary procedures. It has enriched my knowledge about the conduct of business and the practices and procedures being followed in Britain.

Mr. Ian Church, Director of Studies, was a very good professional and detail oriented. He was very spontaneous to individuals' needs and informal, making it easier to share information and participate. As expected, on the concluding day, he termed our delegation the best of all delegations from Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Britain is almost the only country in the world without a written constitution because it has not, for nearly 300 years, been subject to the kind of fundamental constitutional upheavals. It mainly works on the conventions and precedents. It is an extremely flexible constitution since its constitutional laws and practices can be amended or repealed in the same way as any other legal rules. Britain has an uncodified constitution. There are no constitutional amendments. They do not have a referendum on constitutional matters.

The three organs of Government -- the Executive (Government), the Legislature (Parliament) and the Judiciary (Courts) -- function closely together. The growth of power is in the Central Government. Because of electorate system, the Central Government is more powerful than what it was 30 years ago. The Judiciary is not so powerful as the Supreme Court of India.



General elections are to be held in June this year. Elections are funded out of taxation. The ceiling of expenditure on the election used to be roundabout 5000 pounds per candidate. They have to account for it. There is no holiday meant for elections.

When Governments do well, they run for four years. This Government is doing well and is running for five years. It is responsible for developing and implementing policy, and also for drafting laws.

The Britishers do not have a Presidential form of Government. Perhaps, owing to the popularity of the Queen, they do not want any change. The Queen is neutral. She normally accepts the advice of the Government. It is because of the social set-up of the British society, and also because of the constitutional changes taking place there, like the Human Rights Act, Right of Information Act, massive changes in the running of House of Commons and West Minster's varied sitting timings. Expenses of Queen are met by the Parliament. She gets 4 million pounds a year and pays for the upkeep of Buckingham Palace with the agreement of Parliament.

Parliamentary sovereignty gives Parliament of the day considerable power to change anything if the Members so wish.

The Prime Minister is supremely a dominant figure in the system of Government. The amount of power concentrated in him is very considerable. The Prime Minister is looking for loyalty. Members look for promotion. They become Ministers.

The present Prime Minister is intending to make changes. What transpires between the Prime Minister and the Queen nobody knows! The Prime Minister does not have a private office. He has an office with most senior ministers around him and civil servants talking about the issues of the day. Secrecy will be revealed to the other ministers. It is

