

WHIP SYSTEM

The term '**whip**' comes from the **hunting field**, where a "whipper-in" kept stray hounds together.



In politics, first used by **Edmund Burke** to describe rallying party followers during parliamentary matters.

WHIP SYSTEM IN INDIA

The concept of whip was **inherited** from colonial **British rule**.

A whip directs **party members** to attend and **vote in a specific way in the Parliament**.

All parties can issue a whip to their members.

The whip ensures party unity and discipline.



It is commonly used in parliamentary language for political parties' **floor management**.

A whip is also an essential office-bearer of the party in the Parliament.

The **whip's office** exists by **convention, not law/Constitution**.

The **Whips Conference** promotes parliamentary coordination.

TYPES OF WHIPS:

- **One-Line Whip**: Informs members of a vote, allowing them to abstain.
- **Two-Line Whip**: Requires MPs to be present, but does not mandate how to vote.
- **Three-Line Whip**: Strict, mandates party-line voting.



PROCEDURE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE WHIP:

Issuance of Directive: The party issues a whip, specifying attendance and voting directions.

Mandatory Compliance: Members must adhere to the whip to maintain party unity.



Expulsion: Severe breaches may lead to expulsion from the party.

Action Against Defiance: Defiance invites disqualification under Anti-Defection Law (1985).

GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF WHIP:

- **In Lok Sabha**: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is the ruling party's Chief Whip.
- **In Rajya Sabha**: The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs handles this responsibility.

EXCEPTIONS TO WHIP COMPLIANCE:

- **Conscience Votes**: MPs can vote freely on moral or ethical issues, with party permission.
- **Prior Approval**: Members may defy the whip if explicitly allowed by party leadership.