

Difference Between Unicameral and Bicameral

When there is only one house in a parliamentary system to perform all of the legislative functions, such as enacting laws, passing budgets, overseeing the administration, and debating developmental plans, international relations, national plans, and so on, this is referred to as a **Unicameral Legislature** or Unicameralism.

In the case of a Unicameral Legislature, the members are directly elected by the people, and so it represents all of them. Furthermore, due to its simplicity, there are fewer chances of a deadlock situation. New Zealand, Iran, Norway, Sweden, China, Hungary, and others are among the countries that use a Unicameral Legislature.

The **Bicameral Legislature**, also known as bicameralism, refers to a country's legislative body, which comprises two different chambers, the Upper and Lower houses, which share authority. Its main goal is to ensure that all sectors or segments of society are represented in the Parliament in a just and equitable manner. The Bicameral Legislature is used in the UK, US, India, Canada, Spain, Japan, and Italy, among other countries.

Bicameral Legislature States in India

Only 6 of India's 28 states and 8 union territories, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh, have **Bicameral Legislatures**. The members of the lower houses, referred to as Legislative Assemblies, are chosen by universal adult suffrage from single-member constituencies in state elections known as Vidhana Sabha, typically held every five years.

The upper chamber, known as the Legislative Council or Vidhana Parishat in the six states with Bicameral Legislatures, comprises one-third of elected officials who serve two-year terms.

Unicameral States in India

Indian states are the best examples to learn about the Unicameral Legislature. Aspirants may be aware that some of the state legislatures in India are Unicameral, meaning they have just one house to pass laws. There are 24 states with a Unicameral structure out of 28 Indian States.

The Unicameral Legislature states in India are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Puducherry, Punjab, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Uttarakhand.

Difference Between Unicameral and Bicameral Legislature

In a Unicameral Legislature, only one set of decision-makers must hear a measure before approval. On the other hand, in a Bicameral Legislature, both chambers must discuss and approve a bill before it can become law. The difference between Unicameral and Bicameral Legislature are shown in the table below:

Bicameral Legislature	Unicameral Legislature
A Bicameral Legislature is characterised as a system of government in which the power to enact laws is shared between two separate houses or assemblies.	A Unicameral Legislature is distinguished because all of a state's legislative functions are carried out in only one chamber.
An upper house and a lower house, which comprise the parliament, each have a portion of the power to enact laws in a Bicameral Legislature.	Legislative power is centralised in a single house of parliament under a Unicameral Legislature.
A federal government with shared state powers and responsibilities between the federal government and the states is said to have a Bicameral Legislature.	It is a distinctive feature of a unitary form of government, which vests all authority in one central institution.
It takes longer to operate since both chambers must approve a bill to become law.	Since the ability to pass legislation is concentrated in a single house or assembly, it is often thought to be more effective than a Bicameral one. This is because it allows for quicker decisions than a Bicameral Legislature.
When deadlocks are common, a Bicameral Legislature is not the case. Since the two houses of parliament have equal power, when they disagree, an impasse results, which is then addressed by a joint session of both houses.	A deadlock in a Unicameral Legislature is extremely uncommon because only one authority can make laws in such a body.
A Bicameral Legislature is preferable for larger nations that need a division of authority between the federal and state levels.	For smaller countries, a Unicameral Legislature is preferred.

Unicameral and Bicameral Legislature: Conclusion

The main benefit of a Unicameral Legislature is that passing law is straightforward, making it popular in countries where a Bicameral Legislature is unnecessary. Several countries worldwide have selected a Bicameral Legislature to give all socioeconomic classes and businesses a voice. It thus guarantees the representation of all socioeconomic classes. Additionally, it avoids the concentration of power but could lead to impasses that make it more difficult to pass legislation.