

JUDICIAL REVIEW AND MONEY BILLS

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Under the existing constitutional scheme in India, for a bill to be enacted into a law, it has to be approved by both Houses of the Parliament – the Lower House (Lok Sabha) and the Upper House (Rajya Sabha). However, one significant exception to this general rule is the certification of a bill as a ‘money bill’ by the Speaker of the Lower House, whereupon the bill can be enacted into a law by the Lower House alone, without any approval from the Upper House. Although the scope of a ‘money bill’ is broadly delineated in the Constitution, it is possible that a bill could be incorrectly certified as a ‘money bill’ by the Speaker and enacted into a law without the approval of the Upper House. Further, the Constitution accords finality to the decision of the Speaker as to whether the bill is a ‘money bill’, thus raising issues such as whether such finality would bar the Supreme Court from reviewing the accuracy of the Speaker’s decision in this regard; and whether the Supreme Court can strike down such a law as being unconstitutional, if the Speaker’s decision is indeed found to be incorrect. In this paper, we examine these questions which are of immense contemporary relevance in India, and attempt to posit our conclusions to the same.

I. INTRODUCTION

Under the extant constitutional scheme in India, for a bill to be enacted into a law, it has to be approved by both Houses of the Parliament – the Lower House (Lok Sabha) and the Upper House (Rajya Sabha). There is one exception to this general rule. A bill certified as a ‘money bill’ by the Speaker of the Lower House can be enacted into a law by the Lower House alone, without any approval from the Upper House. The scope of what could constitute a ‘money bill’ is defined in the Constitution of India. Yet, it is possible that a bill which does not fall within the scope of this definition could be incorrectly certified as a ‘money bill’ by the Speaker and enacted into a law without the approval of the Upper House. The Constitution of India categorically states that “if any question arises whether a Bill is a ‘money bill’ or not, the decision of the

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Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final.” Does this provision imply that the Indian Supreme Court cannot review whether the Speaker’s certification of a bill as a ‘money bill’ is correct? And if it is actually incorrect, can the Supreme Court not strike down such a law for being unconstitutional? We attempt to examine these questions, which are of immense contemporary relevance in India, through the analysis undertaken in this paper.

The rampant use of money bills in legislation-making in India came to the forefront during the enactment of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (‘Aadhaar Act, 2016’).¹ The Bill was certified as a ‘money bill’ by the Speaker amid stiff resistance by the opposition.² Ultimately, the Lower House rejected the amendments suggested by the Upper House and unilaterally enacted the Aadhaar Act, 2016. Immediately after its enactment, a writ petition was filed by Mr. Jairam Ramesh – a senior Congress leader – in the Supreme Court, challenging the Speaker’s decision to treat the Aadhaar Bill as a ‘money bill’.³

The usage of the ‘money bill’ route to enact the Aadhaar Act, 2016, was not a solitary exception. In the last few years, key legislative reforms have been enacted as money bills. For instance, the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill, 2017, which was passed by the Lower House to fully implement the recent demonetisation scheme, was certified as a ‘money bill’ by the Speaker.⁴ Moreover, the Finance Act, 2017, which was enacted as a money bill,

¹ See Pratik Datta, Shivangi Tyagi & Shefali Malhotra, *The controversy about Aadhaar as a money bill*, March 20, 2016, available at <https://ajayshahblog.blogspot.in/2016/03/the-controversy-about-aadhaar-as-money.html> (Last visited on March 20, 2016) (Here, we have explained why most of the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (‘Aadhaar Act, 2016’) could come within the scope of Art. 110(1)(g) of the Constitution. The only provision of the law which could cause concern is §33(2), which allows disclosure of information in the interest of national security).

² Various commentators criticised the use of the money bill route to enact the Aadhaar Act, 2016. See *The Indian Express*, *Name of the bill*, April 15, 2016, available at <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/aadhaar-bill-money-bill-name-of-the-bill-2754080/> (Last visited on September 21, 2016); See also *The Indian Express*, *Privacy after Aadhaar*, March 26, 2016, available at <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/privacy-after-aadhaar-money-bill-rajya-sabha-upa/> (Last visited on September 21, 2016); *The Indian Express*, *Show me the money*, March 12, 2016, available at <http://indianexpress.com/Art./opinion/columns/show-me-the-money-4/> (Last visited on September 21, 2016).

³ See *Jairam Ramesh v. Union of India*, Writ Petition (Civil) 231 of 2016 (SC) (Pending). Some commentators have argued that enacting this Act through the money bill route was unconstitutional; See Scroll.in, *Why the Centre’s dubious use of money bills must not go unchallenged*, May 11, 2016, available at <https://scroll.in/article/807861/why-the-centres-dubious-use-of-money-bills-must-not-go-unchallenged> (Last visited on February 10, 2017); See also *The Hindu*, *What exactly is a money bill?*, available at <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/what-exactly-is-a-money-bill/article17372184.ece> (Last visited on February 27, 2017).

⁴ See also RAJYA SABHA DEBATES, *Message from the Lok Sabha – I. The Mizoram Appropriation Bill, 1978. II. The Mizoram Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1978. III. The High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Bill, 1978*, Session Number 104, March 22, 1978, available at [http://rsdebate.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/4213191/PD_104_22031978_22_p5_p6_9.pdf#search=Message from the Lok Sabha](http://rsdebate.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/4213191/PD_104_22031978_22_p5_p6_9.pdf#search=Message%20from%20the%20Lok%20Sabha) (Last visited on May 29, 2017) (stating

amended various statutes such as the Payments and Settlements Act, 2007, to create a Payments Regulatory Board within the Reserve Bank of India ('RBI');⁵ the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, to allow issuance of electoral bonds by any scheduled bank;⁶ and the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, to change the composition of the Securities Appellate Tribunal.⁷ Similarly, the Finance Act, 2016, amended the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to institutionalise the flexible inflation targeting monetary policy framework.⁸ The Finance Act, 2015, had effected the merger of the Forward Markets Commission with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI'),⁹ and had amended the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, for transfer of the regulatory powers of the RBI over capital account transactions (pertaining to non-debt instruments), to the Central Government, as well as to create a new offence for acquiring foreign exchange, foreign securities or immovable properties outside India, exceeding a prescribed threshold amount.¹⁰ The revenue deficit target under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003, has been changed thrice in the past using money bills – through the Finance Act, 2004, the Finance Act, 2012 and the Finance Act, 2015.¹¹

During the enactment of the passage of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Second) Amendment Bill, 2014 which introduced the Goods and Services Taxation ('GST') regime,¹² the opposition demanded an assurance from the Government that it would pass this bill as a financial bill and not as a money bill.¹³ No such assurance was given by the Government.¹⁴ Finally, in March 2017, all the four bills – the Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017; the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017; the Goods and

that even the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Bill, 1978 was certified as a 'money bill').

⁵ The Finance Act, 2017, §§151-153.

⁶ *Id.*, §§134-135.

⁷ *Id.*, §§145-148.

⁸ The Finance Act, 2016, §§219-223 (Previously, this framework was part of the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement, 2015, executed between the Union Government and the Reserve Bank of India).

⁹ The Finance Act, 2015, §§131-135.

¹⁰ The Finance Act, 2015, §§138-144 (Even the Public Debt Management Agency was supposed to be established under this law. However, those provisions were later withdrawn); *See* Business Standard, *Govt withdraws PDMA, RBI Bill provisions from Finance Bill*, May 1, 2015, available at http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-withdraws-pdma-rbi-bill-provisions-from-finance-bill-115043000524_1.html (Last visited on May 1, 2015).

¹¹ The Wire, *Key Panel Overlooks Constitutional Loophole on Fiscal Restraint*, April 17, 2017, available at <https://thewire.in/124816/frbm-review-committee-overlooked-constitutional-escape-clause/> (Last visited on June 10, 2017).

¹² The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Second Amendment) Bill, Bill No. 192 of 2014.

¹³ Business Standard, *Government, opposition spar over GST as a finance bill or money bill*, August 3, 2016, available at http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/government-opposition-spar-over-gst-as-a-finance-or-money-bill-116080301819_1.html (Last visited on June 10, 2017).

¹⁴ *Id.*

Services Tax (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017; and the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017 – were passed by the Lok Sabha as money bills.

Even during the passage of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 ('IBC'), there were speculations that it would also be enacted as a money bill.¹⁵ Although the 'money bill' route was not adopted for the IBC,¹⁶ authoritative voices differed on whether it could be passed as a money bill, effectively avoiding the Upper House. Mr. Arvind Datar argued that the fact that the IBC amends fiscal statutes and provides for a grant from the Central Government cannot make it a money bill.¹⁷ On the other hand, Mr. Harish Salve expressed surprise that the IBC "could be brought otherwise" than as a money bill.¹⁸

The above vignettes not only illustrate the past and current usages of the 'money bill' route in India, but also underscore its potential abuses. Yet, the Indian Supreme Court has consistently refrained from exercising its power of judicial review to check such abuse. The Supreme Court has consistently held that the Speaker's certificate issued even in violation of the Constitution of India is merely an "irregularity of procedure", and hence cannot be subject to judicial review.¹⁹ Effectively, if the Speaker certifies each and every bill to be a 'money bill', practically dispensing with the need for the Upper House, the Supreme Court will still not intervene.

In this backdrop, this article explores whether the Supreme Court's power of judicial review could be used as an institutional check to prevent such potential abuses of money bills. For a well-rounded perspective, we trace the evolution of the legal requirement of the Speaker's certification of a bill as 'money bill' across British constitutional history and its influence on the Indian constitutional jurisprudence. Next, we highlight the inherent contradiction within the Supreme Court's own jurisprudence on judicial review of legislative proceedings and the Speaker's certificate on money bills. Our analysis evinces that the Court has consistently differentiated between "irregularity of

¹⁵ The Times of India, *Bankruptcy Code may be turned into money bill*, December 23, 2015, available at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Bankruptcy-code-may-be-turned-into-money-bill/articleshow/50289980.cms> (Last visited on June 10, 2017).

¹⁶ The Hindu, *Bankruptcy code referred to Joint Select Committee of Parliament*, December 23, 2015, available at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/bankruptcy-code-referred-to-joint-select-committee-of-parliament/article8021733.ece> (Last visited on December 23, 2015) (The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was referred to a joint committee of the Parliament).

¹⁷ The Indian Express, *Making a money bill of it*, January 12, 2016, available at <http://indian-express.com/article/opinion/columns/making-a-money-bill-of-it/> (Last visited on January 12, 2016).

¹⁸ *See Bankruptcy Code introduced in Lok Sabha with a twist*, December 21, 2015, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szqmGWzONAs> (Last visited on May 28, 2017) (Mr. Salve gave an interview regarding this issue on CNBC TV18).

¹⁹ This will be discussed in detail in the following Parts of the paper.

procedure” from “procedural illegality”, and has exercised judicial review over legislative proceedings ‘tainted on account of ‘substantive illegality or unconstitutionality’. Further, we attempt to establish that although the Supreme Court has, on multiple occasions, exercised judicial review over decisions of constitutional authorities including the Speaker, which are accorded finality under the Constitution, these principles have never been followed in cases concerning judicial review of the Speaker’s certificate on money bills. In the latter cases, the Court has not only departed from the original textual interpretation of the Constitution, but also contradicted its own jurisprudence on judicial review of legislative proceedings. Finally, we compare the constitutional jurisprudence on this issue across Australia, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America (‘USA’) and Pakistan. This comparative constitutional analysis shows that the jurisprudence evolved by the Indian Supreme Court is at odds with the position adopted across these common law countries. Based on these findings, we conclude that *Jairam Ramesh v. Union of India* (‘Jairam Ramesh’) offers the Supreme Court an invaluable opportunity to rectify this flaw in its own jurisprudence and to settle the law regarding its powers of judicial review of the Speaker’s certification of a bill as ‘money bill’.

II. THE NEED FOR FINALITY: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

James Madison, one of the Founding Fathers of the USA, had best articulated the rationale for a bicameral legislature comprising a directly elected Lower House and an indirectly elected Upper House. “A good government”, Madison wrote, “implies two things: first, fidelity to the object of government, which is the happiness of the people; secondly, knowledge of the means by which that object can be best attained.”²⁰ The Upper House helps achieve the first by ensuring that the Lower House does not forget the interests of its constituents. At the same time, being indirectly elected, it also cools the impulse of sudden and violent passions of democratic masses reflected through their directly elected representatives in the Lower House. Moreover, members of the Lower House, being elected directly by the people, may not be acquainted with study of laws, public policy and administration. This deficiency is likely to be compensated by the indirect election of slightly older members to the Upper House.²¹

Consequently, in a bicameral legislative system, for a bill to be enacted into a law, it has to be approved by both Houses. The concept of ‘money bill’ is an exception. In the Constitution of India, it owes its origin to the British Parliament Act, 1911. However, money bills in Britain have much older roots than the Parliament Act, 1911, itself. To better understand the reasons for

²⁰ James Madison, *Federalist No. 62 – The Senate*, in *THE FEDERALIST PAPERS*, 416-419 ¶IV (1788).

²¹ *Id.*

attributing finality to the Speaker's decision that a bill is a 'money bill', it is essential to have a well-rounded historical perspective on this issue.

A. *THE ORIGINAL SIN*

Since the inception of the bicameral structure of the British Parliament, British constitutional history is replete with instances of skirmishes between the two Houses with respect to their privileges in enacting bills relating to taxation and public expenditure. As early as 1407, an ordinance by Henry IV called 'The Indemnity of the Lords and Commons' mentioned that grants were "granted by the Commons and assented to by the Lords."²² The Judges' decision of 1489 further entrenched the power of the Commons by ruling that the assent of both Houses was necessary to transform a bill into a law.²³

Initially, the House of Commons was content to simply originate grants of supply. However, over time the Lords began 'tacking' on additional legislative provisions to these bills of supply, by way of amendments.²⁴ This led the House of Commons to assert its financial privilege through two resolutions passed by it in late seventeenth century – in 1671²⁵ and 1678.²⁶ Both these resolutions were aimed at curtailing the powers of the Lords to alter or amend bills of aid and supply that originated in the House of Commons.

²² SIR THOMAS ERSKINE MAY, *A TREATISE ON THE LAW, PRIVILEGES, PROCEEDINGS AND USAGE OF PARLIAMENT*, 638 (1883) (quoting Henry IV, *The Indemnity of the Lords and Commons* (1407) – "That the reports of all grants agreed to by the Lords and Commons, should be made in manner and form as hath hitherto been accustomed; that is to say, by the mouth of the Speaker of the House of Commons for the time being"); See also Parliament of Canada, *Financial Procedures: Historical Perspective* in *HOUSE OF COMMONS PROCEDURE AND PRACTICE* (2nd ed., 2009) ('Parliament of Canada').

²³ MICHAEL A.R. GRAVES, *ELIZABETHAN PARLIAMENTS 1559-1601* 7 (1987).

²⁴ See Parliament of Canada, *supra* note 22.

²⁵ MAY, *supra* note 22, 641 (The resolution stated:

"That all aids and supplies, and aids to his Majesty in Parliament, are the sole gift of the Commons; and all bills for the granting of any such aids and supplies ought to begin with the Commons: and that it is the undoubted and sole right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint in such bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations, and qualifications of such grants; which ought not to be changed or altered by the House of Lords."

'Aid' refers to taxation and comprises the annual Finance Bill; 'supplies' refers to government spending and comprises the Consolidated Fund Bills. SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, House of Lords, *Money Bills and Commons Financial Privilege*, Tenth Report, 3 (February 2011), available at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldselect/ldconst/97/97.pdf> (Last visited on January 21, 2016) ('SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION').

²⁶ SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, *supra* note 25, 3 and Appendix 2 (The House of Commons buttressed this resolution by restating the "undoubted and sole right of the Commons" to deal with all bills of aids and supplies. Bills which were not confined to aids or taxation, but which imposed pecuniary burden on the people, could be amended by the House of Lords as long as the intention of the House of Commons was not altered with regards to rate or charge, its duration, mode of assessment, levy, collection, appropriation or management). MAY, *supra* note 22, 642.

But power corrupts. Soon the Commons realised that if they incorporate unrelated provisions to the bills of aid and supply, the Lords would have to either reject or accept the bill in its entirety since the Lords had limited right to alter or amend such bills. Since rejecting an entire bill would be politically expensive, the Lords would have to accept such a bill even though additional provisions were ‘tacked’ on. Consequently, the Commons started incorporating within such bills, provisions unconnected with the grant of aid and supply. This practice of ‘tacking’ was condemned by the Lords by a resolution on December 9, 1702.²⁷ Since ‘tacking’ was a sensitive issue, the House of Commons strictly maintained its right in regard to imposition of charges upon people. They refused to let the Lords exercise the power of authorising the taking of fees and imposing pecuniary penalties, even though such provisions were necessary for general bills.²⁸ Since this led to some inconvenience, a Standing Order was adopted in 1849 to accommodate for amendments that could be suggested by the House of Lords in certain legislative matters.²⁹

However, this arrangement also failed to solve the problem. In 1860, the House of Commons decided to increase the property tax and stamp duties and to repeal the duties on paper, as a part of the overall financial arrangement. Although the increased tax received the assent of the Parliament, the Paper Duties Repeal Bill was rejected by the Lords.³⁰ This incident led to a full inquiry and consideration of the privileges of the Houses, which ultimately led to the resolution of July 6, 1860, that the right of granting aids and supplies to the Crown belongs only to the House of Commons.³¹ Even this resolution was

²⁷ SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, *supra* note 25, 8 (quoting Standing Order 53, stated that: “The annexing of any clause or clauses to a Bill of Aid or Supply, the matter of which is foreign to and different from the matter of the said Bill of Aid or Supply, is unparliamentary and tends to the destruction of constitutional Government”).

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ MAY, *supra* note 22, 646-647 (The resolution stated:

“That with respect to any bill brought to this house from the House of Lords, or returned by the House of Lords to this house, with amendments, whereby any pecuniary penalty, forfeiture, or fee, shall be authorised, imposed, appropriated, regulated, varied, or extinguished, this house will not insist on its ancient and undoubted privilege, in the following cases: (1) Where the object of such pecuniary penalty or forfeiture is to secure the execution of the Act, or the punishment or prevention of offences; (2) Where such fees are imposed in respect of benefit taken, or service rendered, under the Act, and in order to the execution of the Act, and are not made payable into the treasury or exchequer, or in aid of the public revenue, and do not form the ground of public accounting by the parties receiving the same, either in respect of deficit or surplus; (3) When such bill shall be a private bill for a local or personal Act.”)

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Tax Bills – Resolutions*, July 5, 1860, available at <http://hansard.millbank-systems.com/commons/1860/jul/05/tax-bills-resolutions> (Last visited on January 21, 2016) (This resolution stated:

“(1) That the right of granting Aids and Supplies to the Crown is in the Commons alone, as an essential part of their Constitution; and the limitation of all such Grants, as to the matter, manner, measure, and time, is only in them. (2) That, although the Lords have exercised the power of rejecting Bills of several descriptions relating to Taxation

not entirely decisive in granting the sole privilege of passing bills related to aids and supply to the House of Commons, since it did recognise the Lords' tacit power to reject various provisions to safeguard against 'tacking'. Consequently, the question on privileges still remained open for posterity to decide.

B. *PARLIAMENT ACT, 1911*

Exactly after around half a century, the debate resurfaced. This time, the crisis resulted when the House of Lords rejected the annual finance bill as passed by the Commons in 1909. The crisis eventually led to passage of the Parliament Act of 1911, which essentially deprived the House of Lords of the right to reject money bills.

1. Rejection of the People's Budget

The 1909 budget, also known as 'People's Budget', was the brainchild of the then Liberal British Prime Minister H.H. Asquith and the Chancellor of Exchequer David Lloyd George.³² The Budget was aimed at recapturing the working class electorate.³³ Consequently, the new tax burdens were mainly under direct taxes which would mostly affect the wealthier sections of the society.³⁴

by negating the whole, yet the exercise of that power by them has not been frequent, and is justly regarded by this House with peculiar jealousy, as affecting the right of the Commons to grant the Supplies and to provide the Ways and Means for the Service of the year. (3) That, to guard for the future against an undue exercise of that power by the Lords, and to secure to the Commons their rightful control over Taxation and Supply, this House has in its own hands the power so to impose and remit Taxes, and to frame Bills of Supply, that the right of the Commons as to the matter, manner, measure and time, may be maintained inviolate.”)

³² NEAL BLEWETT, *THE PEERS, THE PARTIES AND THE PEOPLE: THE GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1910* 98 (1972) (The Budget is an omnibus bill including all the revenue matters for the year. This process of consolidating all the revenue measures into a single bill began at the end of the eighteenth century but was not fully realised until 1861).

³³ BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 68-69 (At the time, the Exchequer was also faced with a current deficit, an expected lower tax yield in the coming year, increased expenditure on the navy and the cost of Old Age Pensions).

³⁴ BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 70 (Approximately 75% of the tax increase would be paid by the income-tax paying class, approximately 10% of the population. The land taxes were specifically meant to outwit the Lords. The Lords had earlier opposed passage of the Valuation Bill. Lloyd George's intention was to bypass the Lords by putting the provisions on land valuation in the Finance Bill. On March 13, 1909, Lloyd George told his colleagues: 'It is now clear that it would be impossible to secure the passage of a separate Valuation Bill during the existence of the present Parliament, owing to the opposition of the Lords, and therefore the only possible chance which the Government have of redeeming their pledges in this respect is by incorporating proposals involving valuation in the Finance Bill').

Naturally, the People's Budget ruffled many feathers.³⁵ The leaders in the House of Lords felt that they had to do something to stop the passage of the Budget, otherwise it would practically cease to be a second chamber.³⁶ On September 8, 1909, the Cabinet discussed the possibility of rejection of the Finance Bill by the House of Lords for the first time.³⁷

On November 4, 1909, the House of Commons passed the Finance Bill.³⁸ On November 22, 1909, Lord Lansdowne moved an amendment in the House of Lords stating that "this House is not justified in giving its consent to this Bill until it has been submitted to the judgment of the country."³⁹ On November 30, 1909, by 350 to 75 votes, the Lords refused their consent to the Budget.⁴⁰

2. Passage of the Parliament Act, 1911

The ruling party could not face a second election without passing the Budget or defining the policy with respect to the House of Lords. A government whose Finance Bill is rejected can only resign or dissolve Parliament, because without money, it is impossible to govern. At an election meeting held in the Albert Hall on December 10, 1909, Prime Minister Asquith impressed on his audience that one of the most important issues in the election was "the effective limitation and curtailment of the legislative powers of the House of Lords. He remarked: "We shall not assume office and we shall not hold office unless we can secure the safeguards which experience shows us to be necessary for the legislative utility and honour of the party of progress."⁴¹

³⁵ First, the landed interests were incensed with these measures. The agricultural interest was slowly recovering from a protracted economic depression; its political power was in the decline. They saw land valuation as the ultimate threat. Second, the licensed trade saw this measure as a revenge for defeating the last year's Licensing Bill. They worked relentlessly and paid handsomely to defeat the Budget. Third, the financial and commercial interests of the City of London were opposed to the sinking fund proposals, the super-tax and increases in income tax and death duties. BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 77.

³⁶ BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 79 (This was mentioned in a letter by the eminent jurist Professor A.V. Dicey).

³⁷ BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 95 (The financing difficulties that would arise out of such rejection were considered and no decision could be arrived at. However, the Unionist leaders were concerned more with politics than with constitutional probity. They were supported by Professor A.V. Dicey, himself a Unionist, who remarked 'In constitutional as in international law it is often a question rather of power than of right'. Similar flexibility in approach was shown by other constitutional lawyers, such as Sir Frederick Pollock who remarked "All things are lawful for me but all things are not expedient." Sir William Anson disapproved of the force of constitutional customs).

³⁸ See Lucas Prakke, *Swamping the Lords, Packing the Court, Sacking the King: Three Constitutional Crises*, 2(1) EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW REVIEW 124 (2006).

³⁹ BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 98-99.

⁴⁰ BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 77 (And at least two-thirds of those voting for rejection of the Budget owned 5000 acres of land or more).

⁴¹ Prakke, *supra* note 38, 125. (The elections were held in January 1910. The Liberals had lost their absolute majority, but were able to remain in power because they were supported by the

By the middle of March 1910, three resolutions were approved by the Cabinet. One of these resolutions provided that the Lords could neither reject nor amend a money bill.⁴² On May 15, 1911, the Bill was adopted by the Commons and sent to the Lords.⁴³ Amendments were suggested by the Lords, and fervent lobbying ensued. At the end, the Parliament Act, 1911, was passed through the House of Lords with the help of King George V's threat to pack the peerage in order to overwhelm the opposition in the Lords.⁴⁴

3. Provisions of the Parliament Act, 1911

The Parliament Act, 1911 ('1911 Act'), consists of a Preamble followed by eight sections. The Preamble explicitly states that this Act aims to regulate the relations between the two Houses of Parliament and that it was enacted for "restricting the existing powers of the House of Lords."⁴⁵ §1 relates to the powers of House of Lords regarding 'money bills'. Under this section, the Lords could delay a 'money bill' for a maximum of only one month.⁴⁶ For the first time, the term 'money bill' was statutorily defined.⁴⁷ Effectively, it defines

Irish Nationalists and Labour. It was clear, though, that the Irish parliamentary party would now insist on Home Rule with much greater urgency, and to render that possible it was necessary to muzzle the House of Lords. This led to the introduction of the Parliament Bill in March 1910).

⁴² BLEWETT, *supra* note 32, 152. (The other two resolutions were that the Lords could only delay other bills, which would become law without the Lords' assent, if passed in three successive sessions by the Commons, provided that two years had elapsed between a bill's introduction and its final approval by the Commons; and finally that the maximum duration of a Parliament should be reduced from seven years to five).

⁴³ Prakke, *supra* note 38, 131 (Due to dissolution of the Parliament in November 1910, the Parliament Bill had to be reintroduced in exactly the same form in 1911).

⁴⁴ Prakke, *supra* note 38, 131 (Lord Morley read out a statement from the King's secretary, Arthur Bigge, on the floor of the House which made it clear that every vote given against the bill would be a vote for a large and prompt creation of peers); *See also* Anupam Chander, *Sovereignty, Referenda, and the Entrenchment of a United Kingdom Bill of Rights*, 101(2) *YALE L.J.* 457–480 (1991).

⁴⁵ Parliament Act, 1911 (U.K.), Preamble.

⁴⁶ *Id.*, §1.

⁴⁷ *Id.*, §1(2) (

"Money Bill means a Public Bill which in the opinion of the Speaker of the House of Commons contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following subjects, namely, the imposition, repeal, remission, alteration, or regulation of taxation; the imposition for the payment of debt or other financial purposes of charges on the Consolidated Fund, or on money provided by Parliament, or the variation or repeal of any such charges; supply; the appropriation, receipt, custody, issue or audit of accounts of public money; the raising or guarantee of any loan or the repayment thereof; or subordinate matters incidental to those subjects or any of them. In this subsection the expressions taxation, public money, and loan respectively do not include any taxation, money, or loan raised by local authorities or bodies for local purposes."

This provision has been amended by the National Loans Act, 1968 to include the words 'the National Loans Fund'). Irrespective of the statutory definition, the expression 'money bill' has a well-established meaning in the House of Commons. In its widest sense it means a bill, the main purpose of which is either to impose a charge upon public funds or to impose a charge upon the people, i.e. a tax. There are many bills which are

a bill to be a ‘money bill’ if in the ‘opinion of the Speaker’ it contains ‘only’ certain specific provisions. Therefore, whether a bill is a ‘money bill’ under the 1911 Act is based on the subjective opinion of the Speaker.

Under §1(3) of the 1911 Act, the Speaker has a duty to “consult, if practicable, two members to be appointed from the Chairmen’s Panel”, that is, two senior back-benchers, usually one from either side of the House, appointed by the Committee of Selection from amongst those senior Ministers who chair general committees. The Speaker is under no statutory duty to consult further; but in practice, the Speaker takes the advice of the clerks of the House of Commons when deciding whether to certify a bill as a money bill. However, the Speaker can only decide whether or not to certify a bill as a ‘money bill’ once it has passed the House.⁴⁸ §3 accords legal finality to the Speaker’s certificate. It states: “Any certificate of the Speaker of the House of Commons given under this Act shall be *conclusive for all purposes*, and shall *not be questioned in any court of law*” (emphasis added).

Evidently, a court of law cannot question the Speaker’s certificate under §3. The principle embedded in this section closely resembles the ‘enrolled bill’ doctrine which had been developed by English courts, starting from the 1616 decision in *R. v. Arundel*.⁴⁹ This doctrine owes its origin to the English monarchical system of government.⁵⁰ Acts passed by Parliament would receive the King’s assent and be marked with the regal seal. Since the King was sovereign, no one could question the regal seal. Also, in those days, the King’s seal was the best evidence of the original record of the enactment.⁵¹ It was in this unique political and historical context that the English courts expressed reluctance to question the King’s seal and review the enactment process based on extrinsic evidence about parliamentary proceedings.⁵² §3 of the 1911 Act

not money bill in the Parliamentary sense but would be so under the statute, such as the Public Building Expenses Bill, 1913, the Agricultural Improvement Grants Bill, 1958. It is important to note that money bills and supply bills are separate categories, but there is some overlap. Money bills cover a large and increasing class of bills which impose charges upon the Consolidated Fund or on moneys provided by Parliament. A bill exclusively for this purpose is a money bill. On the other hand, a bill of aids and supplies, such as Finance Bill, is not necessarily a money bill for it may and often does include provisions dealing with other subjects than those enumerated in the definition of money bill. Therefore, bills for aid and supply are not subject to the Parliament Act, 1911, unless they are money bills. It is, indeed, more often than not the case that the Speaker’s certificate is withheld from a Finance Bill. MAY, *supra* note 22, 789-791. Finance Bills, which may contain administrative provisions in addition to the matters specified in §1(2) of the 1911 Act, are quite frequently not certified as money bills. SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, *supra* note 25, ¶10.

⁴⁸ SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, *supra* note 25, ¶11.

⁴⁹ *R. v. Arundel*, 80 ER 268.

⁵⁰ David Sandler, *Forget What You Learned in Civics Class: “The Enrolled Bill Rule” and Why It’s Time to Overrule Field v. Clark*, 41 COLUM. J.L. & SOC. PROBS. 213-214 (2007).

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

gives the Speaker's certificate the same status as the regal seal – finality for all purposes and immunity from judicial review.

To further clarify that any 'money bill' must have the consent of only the House of Commons, §4 requires every 'money bill' to have the following words of enactment: "Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and *consent* of the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, in accordance with the provisions of the Parliament Act, 1911, and by authority of the same, as follows" (emphasis added).⁵³ However, as a matter of procedure, even after a bill has been certified as a 'money bill', the Lords can amend such bill within one month, but the House of Commons is not obliged to consider the amendments.⁵⁴

The statutory concept of 'money bill' and the Speaker's certification of a bill as 'money bill' introduced by the British Parliament in the 1911 Act ultimately found its way into the Constitution of India, albeit with crucial modifications.

III. CONTRADICTORY JURISPRUDENCE UNDER CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Before the advent of the Constitution of India, British India was governed by the Government of India Act, 1935, which became effective in 1937. The Act created a Federal Legislature consisting of His Majesty represented by the Governor-General and two chambers – the Council of States (Upper House) and Federal Assembly (Lower House).⁵⁵ The Upper House consisted of one hundred and fifty-six representatives of British India and not more than one hundred and four representatives of the Indian States.⁵⁶ The Lower House consisted of two hundred and fifty representatives of British India and not more than one hundred and twenty-five representatives of the Indian States.⁵⁷ §37 of the Government of India Act, 1935 provided for special provisions as to 'financial bills'.⁵⁸ §38 empowered each chamber of the Federal Legislature to make rules regulating "their procedure and the conduct of their business" subject to

⁵³ Parliament Act, 1911 (U.K.), §4 (This provision has been amended to replace 'the Parliament Act, 1911' with 'the Parliament Acts 1911 and 1949' also).

⁵⁴ SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, *supra* note 25, ¶13 (In a bid to protect the existing rights and privileges of the House of Commons, §6 of the Act provides: "Nothing in this Act shall diminish or qualify the existing rights and privileges of the House of Commons." This section protects the Commons' claim to privilege by which the Lords are debarred from amending bills of aids and supplies, since these bills are not 'money bills.');

MAY, *supra* note 22.

⁵⁵ The Government of India Act, 1935, §§1, 18.

⁵⁶ *Id.*, §18.

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ *Id.*, §37.

the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.⁵⁹ §41 of the Government of India Act, 1935, had a general prohibition preventing courts from inquiring into legislative proceedings “on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.”⁶⁰ It is worthwhile to note that under the Government of India Act, 1935, there was no provision on certification of a bill as ‘financial bill’ by the Speaker. Instead, a ‘financial bill’ could be introduced in the Lower House only on recommendation of the Governor-General. This position would later undergo a drastic change under the Constitution of India.

A. DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

The Constitution of India was drafted by the Constituent Assembly. This Constituent Assembly appointed a number of committees to consider and report on various important matters for which constitutional provisions would be necessary.⁶¹ These committees submitted their reports during April to August 1947. Based on the decisions of the Assembly on these reports, the Constitutional Advisor prepared a draft constitution which was placed before the Drafting Committee on October 27, 1947.⁶² Article 74 of this draft provided for a special procedure in respect of money bill. The draft article was inspired by Article 21 of the Constitution of Ireland, 1937.⁶³ Article 75 of this draft provided a definition of money bill, which was inspired by §37 of the Government of India Act, 1935, §53 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900 and Article 22 of the Constitution of Ireland, 1937.⁶⁴ This Draft Article 75 provided that “if any question arises whether a Bill is a ‘money bill’ or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final.”⁶⁵

It is noteworthy that neither §37 of the Government of India Act, 1935 nor §53 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900 has a similar provision which makes the decision of the Speaker final. Only Article 22 of the Constitution of Ireland, 1937 has a similar provision. The Chairman of the Irish Lower House has the power to certify a bill which in his opinion is a ‘money bill’, and his certificate is ‘final and conclusive’ subject to the other provisions of that Article. The Article then goes on to lay down a unique procedure of dispute resolution if the Upper House disputes the certificate of

⁵⁹ *Id.*, §38.

⁶⁰ *Id.*, §41(1) (“The validity of any proceedings in the Federal Legislature shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.”).

⁶¹ SHIBANI CHAUBE, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA: SPRINGBOARD OF REVOLUTION 103 (2000).

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ B. SHIVA RAO, THE FRAMING OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION: SELECTED DOCUMENTS Vol. 3, 32 (2012) (The side note to Art. 75 of the Draft Constitution by the Constitutional Adviser mentioned this aspect).

⁶⁵ *Id.*

the Chairman.⁶⁶ The draft prepared by the Indian Constitutional Adviser only adopted the part on finality of the certification of a bill as a ‘money bill’ by the Speaker from the Constitution of Ireland, 1937 but did not adopt the Irish model of dispute resolution.

On December 5, 1947, the Expert Committee on Financial Provisions submitted its report to the President of the Constituent Assembly.⁶⁷ With respect to money bills, the Committee suggested that when a ‘money bill’ is sent from the Lower House to the Upper House, a certificate of the Speaker of the Lower House saying it is a ‘money bill’ should be attached to or endorsed on the bill, to avoid controversies “about the matter outside the Lower House.”⁶⁸ Accordingly, it suggested a similar provision as in the 1911 Act be inserted in the Constitution of India.⁶⁹ Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Financial Provisions, Clause 75 was also revised to add a new sub-clause to provide for the endorsement of a certificate by the Speaker on a ‘money bill’, before its transmission to the Council of States and its presentation to the President for assent.⁷⁰ Therefore, it can be concluded that the reason for insertion of the Speaker’s certificate before transmission of a ‘money bill’ to the Upper House was to avoid any controversy on the issue in the Upper House and before the President.

Further, in the Draft Constitution prepared by the Drafting Committee, Article 101 provided for immunity of Parliamentary proceedings from judicial intervention on ‘alleged irregularity of procedure’.⁷¹ This article

⁶⁶ The Constitution of Ireland, 1937, Art. 22 (The Art. allows the Upper House the option to pass a resolution, by not less than thirty sitting members, requesting the President to refer the question whether a bill is a money bill or not to a Committee of Privileges. The President, in consultation with the Council of States, may accept the request. In that event, the President in consultation with the Council of State, must appoint a Committee of Privileges consisting of equal number of members from the Upper and Lower Houses and chaired by a judge of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court judge, as the Chairperson, has a right to vote only if there is an equality of votes. The Committee of Privileges has to report its decision within twenty-one days after the day on which the Bill was sent to the Upper House. Such decision shall be final and conclusive. If the President, in consultation with the Council of States, decides not to accede to the request of the Upper House, or if the Committee of Privileges fails to report within the specified time limit, the certificate of the Chairman of the Lower House stands confirmed. Further, Art. 26 of the Irish Constitution provides the President the power to refer a bill to the Supreme Court to examine its constitutionality. However, the money bill is specifically exempted for such Presidential reference).

⁶⁷ CHAUBE, *supra* note 61, 185.

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ RAO, *supra* note 64, 281.

⁷⁰ *Id.*, 357-358.

⁷¹ *Id.*, 553 (This corresponds to Art. 122 of the Constitution of India. Draft Art. 101 stated: “(1) The validity of any proceedings in the Parliament shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure. (2) No officer or other member of Parliament in whom powers are vested by or under this Constitution for regulating the procedure or the conduct of business, or for maintaining order in Parliament shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise by him of those powers.”).

finally got renumbered as Article 122 in the Constitution of India. During the Constituent Assembly Debates, Shri H.V. Kamath suggested an amendment to draft Article 101 to clarify that the validity of any Parliamentary proceedings shall not be called in question in any court.⁷² Accordingly he suggested that the words ‘called in question’ be replaced with ‘called in question in any court’.⁷³ Refuting this suggested amendment, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar categorically stated:

“Sir, with regard to the amendment of Mr. Kamath, I do not think it is necessary, because where can the proceedings of Parliament be questioned in a legal manner except in a court? Therefore the only place where the proceedings of Parliament can be questioned in a legal manner and legal sanction obtained is the court. Therefore it is unnecessary to mention the words which Mr. Kamath wants in his amendment. For the reason I have explained, the only forum there the proceedings can be questioned in a legal manner and legal relief obtained either against the President or the Speaker or any officer or Member, being the Court, it is unnecessary to specify the forum. Mr. Kamath will see that the marginal note makes it clear.”⁷⁴

This is a categorical clarification that Article 122 of the Constitution of India contemplates judicial review by courts over legality of Parliamentary proceedings except on ‘the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure’.

B. TEXTUAL READING OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, 1949

Article 110(1) of the Indian Constitution defines a money bill.⁷⁵ Article 109 provides for the special procedure in respect of money bills. It prohibits introduction of money bills in the Upper House, and permits the same

⁷² See CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEBATES, March 23, 1949, *speech by H.V. Kamath*, available at <http://parliamentofindia.nic.in/lis/debates/vol8p6.htm> (Last visited on September 20, 2016).

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ See CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEBATES, March 23, 1949, *speech by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar*, available at <http://parliamentofindia.nic.in/lis/debates/vol8p6.htm> (Last visited on September 20, 2016).

⁷⁵ The Constitution of India, Art. 110(1)

(“For the purposes of this Chapter, a Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters, namely

- (a) the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax;
- (b) the regulation of the borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by the Government of India, or the amendment of the law with respect to any financial obligations undertaken or to be undertaken by the Government of India;
- (c) the custody of the consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of moneys from any such Fund;
- (d) the appropriation of moneys out of the consolidated Fund of India;

only in the Lower House. After passage in the Lower House, it must be transmitted to the Upper House for its recommendations. Article 110(4) provides that when a ‘money bill’ is transmitted from the Lower House to the Upper House, it must be endorsed with a certificate by the Speaker of the Lower House that it is a money bill. The Upper House must, within fourteen days of such receipt, return the bill to the Lower House with its recommendations. The Lower House may either accept or reject any or all of the recommendations made by the Upper House. The final bill as accepted by the Lower House, with or without amendments suggested by the Upper House, will be deemed to have been approved by both the Houses. If the Upper House fails to return the bill along with the recommendations within fourteen days, the bill as passed by the Lower House will be deemed to have been passed by both the Houses. Under Article 111, when a ‘money bill’ has been passed by the Lower House, it shall be presented to the President along with the Speaker’s certificate for his assent.

Similarly, there are corresponding provisions in the Constitution of India for money bills introduced in and passed by a State Legislative Assembly. Article 198 provides for the special procedure for money bills in the State Legislative Assembly, while Article 199 defines a ‘money bill’ and also provides for finality of the decision of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. When a ‘money bill’ has been passed by the State Legislative Assembly, Article 200 requires it to be presented to the Governor, along with the Speaker’s certificate, for his assent.⁷⁶

1. Conclusiveness of Speaker’s certificate

In this backdrop, Article 110(3) of the Constitution of India states: “If any question arises whether a Bill is a ‘money bill’ or not, the *decision of the Speaker* of the House of the People thereon shall be *final*” (emphasis added). As discussed earlier this provision was inspired by Article 22 of the Constitution of Ireland, 1937 and §3 of the 1911 Act. Article 22 of the Constitution of Ireland, 1937 states: “The Chairman of Dail Eireann shall certify any Bill which, in his opinion, is a ‘money bill’ to be a Money Bill, and his certificate shall, *subject to the subsequent provisions of this section, be final and conclusive.*”

The subsequent provisions of Article 22 lay down a dispute resolution mechanism, which has also been alluded to earlier. In other words, unless recourse is taken to raise a dispute as to whether a bill is a ‘money bill’ and

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- (e) the declaring of any expenditure to be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure;
 - (f) the receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a State; or
 - (g) any matter incidental to any of the matters specified in sub clauses (a) to (f)."

⁷⁶ Since the critical provisions relevant for the purpose at hand are similarly worded for both the Centre and the States, they will not be treated separately in this paper.

whether the constitutional procedure has been followed, the Chairman's certificate is treated as final and conclusive under the Constitution of Ireland, 1937. In contrast, the Constitution of India does not provide for any special dispute resolution mechanism. In absence of any such special constitutional procedure for dispute resolution, excluding judicial review of the Speaker's certificate would amount to an arbitrary and unreasonable interpretation of the text of the Constitution of India.

The 1911 Act consciously avoided judicial review of the Speaker's certificate. §3 of this Act made it abundantly clear that "[a]ny certificate of the Speaker of the House of Commons given under this Act shall be *conclusive for all purposes*, and shall *not be questioned in any court of law*" (emphasis added).

The Indian draftsmen were aware of this text and did take it into consideration after the Expert Committee on Financial Provisions submitted its report to the President of the Constituent Assembly.⁷⁷ The Constitution of India incorporated the conclusive nature of the Speaker's decision into Article 110(3) by using the words "shall be final", but the language used in Article 110(3) was substantially different from §3 of the 1911 Act. §3 expressly excluded the power of judicial review of courts by clearly stating that the Speaker's certificate "shall not be questioned in any court of law" and that it shall be conclusive "for all purposes." Had the framers of the Constitution of India intended to similarly exclude judicial review in India, they could have used these same phrases. Yet they did not use either of those phrases in Article 110(3) of the Constitution of India.

This difference in language between the 1911 Act and the Constitution of India could be attributed to three possible reasons. *First*, England follows a system of parliamentary sovereignty where the legislature is supreme. In their model it is possible to give absolute finality to the Speaker's certificate and to immunise it from judicial review. But this would have been impossible under the Constitution of India since it was not based on parliamentary sovereignty. Thus, giving absolute conclusiveness to the Speaker's certificate or decision and immunising it from judicial review would have been incompatible with the overall scheme of the Constitution of India. *Second*, §3 of the 1911 Act requires complete judicial deference to the Speaker's opinion. This amounts to the judiciary relinquishing its power of judicial review – to interpret and enforce constitutional provisions of lawmaking – not to the Lower House as a whole, but to one legislative officer of the Lower House, the Speaker. Importing this provision into the Constitution of India would have amounted to an excessive delegation of judicial powers to one legislative officer in the Lower House. Such a provision would have been out of sync with the fundamental philosophy of the Constitution of India based on the tenet of separation of powers.

⁷⁷ RAO, *supra* note 64.

Third, §3 of the 1911 Act effectively directs the English courts to conclusively presume that a bill certified by the Speaker was passed in accordance with all the procedural requirements. In England, such procedural requirements would never attain constitutional status since they do not have a written constitution. Instead, such procedures could either be found in statutes passed by the Houses themselves, or in rules framed by each of the Houses. Therefore, the presumption under §3 prevents English courts from reviewing whether the Houses complied with their own procedures. However, under the Constitution of India, the Houses have to follow not only procedures laid down by their own legislation and rules, but also by the Constitution itself. Importing absolute immunity from judicial review under §3 of the Parliament Act, 1911, would render the constitutional procedure for lawmaking redundant in the Indian context.⁷⁸ For these reasons, it is logical to presume that the Indian draftsmen consciously omitted incorporating the exact language of §3 of Parliament Act, 1911 into the Constitution of India.

Therefore, it is submitted that the framers of the Constitution of India did not intend to make the Speaker's certificate "conclusive for all purposes" as is the position in England. They were merely trying to avoid the skirmishes experienced by the House of Lords and the House of Commons in Britain for seven hundred years, leading up to the enactment of the 1911 Act. In an attempt to avoid similar controversies "about the matter outside the Lower House", the Constitution of India made the Speaker's decision final for the purpose of the two Houses of the Parliament.⁷⁹ By clearly omitting to mention that the Speaker's certificate "shall not be questioned in any court of law", the framers of the Indian Constitution deliberately allowed the possibility of judicial review of the Speaker's decision in India.

2. Exclusion of judicial review of legislative proceedings

Judicial review of the Speaker's certificate is not excluded by Article 122(1) either. Article 122(1) of the Constitution of India protects "proceedings in Parliament"⁸⁰ from being "called into question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure."⁸¹ It is important to understand the meaning of the word 'procedure' in this provision. Articles 118 to 122 have been clubbed

⁷⁸ *C.f.* Scroll.in, *Why the Centre's dubious use of money bills must not go unchallenged*, May 11, 2016, available at <https://scroll.in/article/807861/why-the-centres-dubious-use-of-money-bills-must-not-go-unchallenged> (Last visited on February 10, 2017) (Similar arguments have been made by Alok Prasanna Kumar. These arguments apply equally to the difference between the American constitutional jurisprudence and its British counterpart). See Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov, *Legislative Supremacy in the United States?: Re-thinking the 'Enrolled Bill' Doctrine*, 97 GEO. L.J. 323 (2009).

⁷⁹ The same applies equally to state legislatures.

⁸⁰ See the Constitution of India, Art. 212(1) (corresponding provision for state legislatures).

⁸¹ *Id.*, Art. 122(1) ("The validity of any proceedings in Parliament shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure").

under the heading ‘Procedure Generally’. Article 118(1) empowers each House of the Parliament to make rules for regulating “its procedure and conduct of its business” subject to the provisions of the Constitution of India.⁸² Article 119 empowers Parliament to enact laws to regulate the ‘procedure’ in Parliament in relation to financial business. Such law overrides any rule made under Article 118. In this context, Article 122(1) prohibits judicial review of “irregularity of procedure.” Here ‘procedure’ refers only to procedure in rules made under Article 118 or in a law under Article 119. Effectively, if the House chooses to make a procedure for itself, violation of such procedure by the House itself cannot be questioned in a court of law. But if the Constitution of India prescribes a procedure to be followed by a House (as in the case of money bills), a violation of such constitutional procedure is not immune from judicial review under Article 122. In other words, the phrase “irregularity of procedure” in Article 122 does not cover constitutional procedure. Therefore, the protection from judicial review granted by Article 122 cannot be stretched to protect non-compliance or breach of a constitutional procedure like the special procedure for money bills under Articles 109 and 110.⁸³

3. Requirements as to recommendations and previous sanctions

Article 255 of the Constitution of India protects any central or state legislation from being rendered invalid merely because “some recommendation or previous sanction required under this Constitution” was not given, if the President or Governor had subsequently given their assent respectively. Effectively, Article 255 treats “requirements as to recommendations and previous sanctions” as “matters of procedure only” and therefore, outside the purview of judicial review.⁸⁴ However, Article 255 does not treat the requirement of certification of a bill as ‘money bill’ by the Speaker under Article 110(4) as a “matter of procedure.” This is because it uses the words “recommendation” and “sanction” only; not “certificate” or “certification.” This assumes significance because in the Constitution of India, “recommendation” and “sanction” are given primarily by the President and Governors; never by the Speaker.⁸⁵

Article 255 can be traced back to the proviso to §80A(3) of the Government of India Act, 1919. §80A(3) required sanction of the Governor-General before the local legislature of any Province could make, or take into

⁸² Under this provision, the Lok Sabha has issued the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

⁸³ Similarly, the protection from judicial review under Art. 212 cannot be stretched to protect non-compliance or breach of a constitutional procedure like the special procedure for money bills under Arts. 198 and 199.

⁸⁴ DURGA DAS BASU, COMMENTARY ON THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, Vol. 8 9060 (20th ed., 2012).

⁸⁵ See Constitution of India, Arts. 233, 338, 243-I, 246, 269A, 357 (Under the Constitution of India, apart from the President and Governor, “recommendation” can also be given by the High Courts and certain specialised bodies (like National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Finance Commission, GST Council and others); “sanction” can be given by Parliament too).

consideration, certain laws on taxation and public expenditure. The proviso however clarified that any such law made by the local legislature and subsequently assented to by the Governor-General will not be invalid merely because it did not get the previous sanction of the Governor-General. Effectively, if the Governor-General himself gave subsequent assent to the law, it would be valid irrespective of the fact that his sanction or recommendation had not been taken previously. The Government of India Act, 1935 also had a similar provision. §109(1) of the Government of India Act, 1935 stated that even if the Governor-General or Governor had given his recommendation or previous sanction to the introduction or passing of a Bill or moving of an amendment, he can subsequently still withhold his assent to such Bill. In this context, §109(2) of this Act clarified that no Act of the Federal Legislature or a Provincial Legislature will be considered invalid merely because the previous recommendation or sanction of the Governor-General or the Governor was not taken, if the final assent had been given by the Governor-General or Governor respectively. Again, this effectively meant that if the Governor-General or Governor himself gave subsequent assent to the law, such law would be valid irrespective of the fact that his sanction or recommendation had not been taken previously.

Both of the aforesaid provisions – §80A(3) of the Government of India Act, 1919 and §109(2) of the Government of India Act, 1935 – treated requirements as to previous sanctions and recommendations by a constitutional authority – Governor-General or Governor – to be “matters of procedure only”, if assent of the same constitutional authority was procured subsequently. These provisions were not meant to apply to the requirement of certification by the Speaker, since neither the Government of India Act, 1919 nor the Government of India Act, 1935, had any mention of such Speaker’s certificate. Further, under the Constitution of India, the Speaker gets only one chance to certify a bill as a ‘money bill’ - before transmission of the bill to the Upper House. Subsequently, his assent is never required. Instead, the President’s or Governor’s assent is needed. Such assent by the President or Governor cannot rectify the lack of certification by a completely different constitutional authority – the Speaker.

Moreover, it is evident from the drafting history that the purpose of the Speaker’s certificate was to avoid controversies “about the matter outside the Lower House.” Presidential assent cannot substitute for this purpose at a later stage. Therefore, it can be concluded that Article 255 does not cover the requirement of the Speaker’s certificate under Article 110(4) as “matters of procedure only.”⁸⁶ In other words, Article 255 does not prevent judicial review of the Speaker’s certification of a bill as ‘money bill’.

⁸⁶ Similarly, Art. 255 does not cover the requirement of the Speaker’s certificate under Art. 199(4) as ‘matters of procedure only’.

C. SUPREME COURT ON 'PROCEDURAL IRREGULARITY' AND "PROCEDURAL ILLEGALITY"

The scope of Article 122 of the Indian Constitution (and its counterpart for states in Article 212) has come up before the Supreme Court in matters concerning the powers, privileges and immunities of the Parliament as well as State Legislatures, and their respective members under Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution of India respectively. In these cases, the Supreme Court has consistently distinguished the phrase "irregularity of procedure" in Articles 122 and 212 from "procedural illegality"—a term coined by the Court itself. The Supreme Court has sought to distinguish between "procedural irregularity" and "procedural illegality", holding that "procedural illegality" is subject to judicial review while "procedural irregularity" is not. It would be useful to review this strand of the Supreme Court's jurisprudence, and then compare it with its interpretation of Articles 122 and 212 on matters relating to judicial review of Speaker's certification of money bills.

The question arose for the first time in *M.S.M. Sharma v. Sri Krishna Sinha* ('M.S.M. Sharma').⁸⁷ This case arose out of the publication of expunged portions of the proceedings of the Bihar Legislative Assembly by the editor of 'Searchlight', the petitioner in this case.⁸⁸ The matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, which called upon the petitioner to show-cause why he should not be proceeded for breach of privilege of the Assembly under Article 194(3) of the Constitution of India.⁸⁹ The petitioner filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court for quashing of proceedings against him in the Bihar Legislative Assembly. He argued that the privilege granted to the Legislative Assembly under Article 194(3) was subject to the fundamental right to freedom of speech under Article 19(1) (a).⁹⁰ The Supreme Court dismissed the petition holding that Article 212 of the Constitution of India prohibits the validity of any proceedings in a Legislature of a State from being called in question in a court of law on the ground of any alleged "irregularity of procedure."⁹¹

This rather simplistic *ratio* had to be revisited by a seven judge bench of the court in the rather compelling factual matrix in *Special Reference No. 1 of 1964* ('Special Reference No. 1').⁹² In this case, one Keshav Singh was committed to prison for committing breach of privilege and contempt of

⁸⁷ *M.S.M. Sharma v. Sri Krishna Sinha*, AIR 1959 SC 395 : 1959 Supp (1) SCR 806.

⁸⁸ *Id.*, ¶1.

⁸⁹ *Id.* (Art. 194 relates to the powers and privileges of the House of Legislatures. Art. 194(3) gives the legislature the power to define its powers, privileges and immunities by law).

⁹⁰ *Id.*, ¶8.

⁹¹ *Id.*, ¶38, 55.

⁹² Powers, Privileges and Immunities of State Legislatures, In re, Special Reference No. 1 of 1964, AIR 1965 SC 745 : (1965) 1 SCR 413, Special Reference No. 1 of 1964.

the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.⁹³ The Uttar Pradesh High Court ordered that Keshav Singh should be released on bail.⁹⁴ Offended by the High Court's decision, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly chose a radical path. It passed a resolution ordering the arrest of the judges of the Uttar Pradesh High Court who granted the bail order, along with the advocate representing Keshav Singh.⁹⁵ The two judges and the lawyer approached the Allahabad High Court under Article 226 challenging the constitutionality of this resolution.⁹⁶ A full bench of the Allahabad High Court comprising of 28 judges passed an order restraining the Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from issuing or executing a warrant pursuant to the resolution.⁹⁷ Ultimately, the matter was referred to the Supreme Court through a presidential reference under Article 143 of the Constitution of India, wherein the Supreme Court was required to determine the scope of legislative privilege enjoyed by the State Legislative Assembly under the Constitution of India. In this context, the Supreme Court discussed the scope of immunity from judicial review under Article 212, clarifying that it is not absolute in nature. The Court held:

“Article 212(1) seems to make it possible for a citizen to call in question in the appropriate court of law the validity of any proceedings inside the legislative chamber if his case is that the said proceedings suffer not from *mere irregularity of procedure, but from an illegality*. If the impugned procedure is *illegal and unconstitutional*, it would be open to be scrutinised in a court of law, though such scrutiny is prohibited if the complaint against the procedure is no more than this that the *procedure was irregular*.”⁹⁸

In face of the drastic resolution by the Uttar Pradesh State Legislative Assembly against the two judges and the lawyer, the Supreme Court had no hesitation in distinguishing ‘procedural irregularity’ under Article 212 from “procedural illegality”— which includes breach of constitutional provisions.⁹⁹ In other words, the Supreme Court's decision in Special Reference No. 1 clearly excludes breach of constitutional provisions from the immunity granted under Article 212, allowing judicial review in such matters.

This principle was further upheld by the Supreme Court in *Raja Ram Pal v. Lok Sabha* (‘Raja Ram Pal’).¹⁰⁰ This case arose after television channels telecasted programmes depicting some members of the Lok Sabha as

⁹³ *Id.*, ¶2.

⁹⁴ *Id.*, ¶4.

⁹⁵ *Id.*, ¶6.

⁹⁶ *Id.*

⁹⁷ *Id.*, ¶7.

⁹⁸ *Id.*, ¶61.

⁹⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰⁰ *Raja Ram Pal v. Lok Sabha*, (2007) 3 SCC 184.

well as the Rajya Sabha accepting money for raising certain questions in the House or for otherwise espousing certain causes for those offering the money.¹⁰¹ Each House instituted inquiries through separate committees.¹⁰² Finally, the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha expelled those members.¹⁰³ Some of the expelled members challenged the constitutional validity of their expulsion. The Supreme Court was called upon to decide whether each House of the Parliament, in exercise of its powers, privileges and immunities under Article 105 of the Constitution of India, could expel its own members from membership of the respective House; and if such power exists, whether the exercise of such power would be subject to judicial review. The Supreme Court observed that “[t]he proceedings which may be tainted on account of substantive illegality or unconstitutionality, as opposed to those suffering from mere irregularity thus cannot be held protected from judicial scrutiny by Article 122(1).”¹⁰⁴ The court limited the scope of immunity of legislative proceedings from judicial review under Article 122 by holding:

“Any attempt to read a limitation into Article 122 so as to restrict the court’s jurisdiction to examination of the Parliament’s procedure in case of unconstitutionality, as opposed to illegality would amount to doing violence to the constitutional text. Applying the principle of *‘expressio unius est exclusio alterius’* (whatever has not been included has by implication been excluded), it is plain and clear that prohibition against examination on the touchstone of *“irregularity of procedure”* does not make taboo judicial review on findings of *illegality or unconstitutionality*.”¹⁰⁵ (emphasis added)

Evidently, in matters concerning powers, privileges and immunities of the Parliament as well as State Legislatures, and their respective members under Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution of India, the Supreme Court has distinguished between ‘procedural irregularity’ and “procedural illegality.” It has clearly accepted that Articles 122 and 212 do not impose absolute bar on judicial review, especially when the allegation is one of breach of constitutional procedure. Yet, when the occasion required the Supreme Court to review the Speaker’s decision on whether a bill is a ‘money bill’ or not, the Supreme Court has evolved a markedly contrarian jurisprudence against judicial review.

¹⁰¹ *Id.*, ¶3.

¹⁰² *Id.*

¹⁰³ *Id.*

¹⁰⁴ *Id.*, ¶366.

¹⁰⁵ *Id.*, ¶386.

D. SUPREME COURT ON JUDICIAL REVIEW OF 'FINAL' DECISIONS

The Constitution of India grants the status of finality to various types of decisions made by different constitutional authorities, including the Supreme Court, the President, the Governor and the Speaker. In three instances – Article 163(2) and the provisos to Articles 371A(1)(b) and 371H(a) – the Constitution of India explicitly provides that such final decisions cannot be questioned. The decision of the Speaker as to whether a bill is a ‘money bill’ or not is not one of them. Moreover, the Supreme Court itself has specifically held that some of these ‘final’ decisions by the President, the Governor, certain empowered authorities, and the Speaker are judicial in nature and are subject to judicial review. Table 1 below gives the details of these constitutional provisions along with the relevant case-laws of the Supreme Court, wherever available. From this table it is evident that the Supreme Court has on multiple occasions held that the ‘final’ decisions by different constitutional authorities including the Speaker could be subject to judicial review. Yet, when the occasion required the Supreme Court to review the Speaker’s decision on whether a bill is a ‘money bill’ or not, the Supreme Court has evolved a markedly contrarian jurisprudence against judicial review.

Table 1: Constitutional authorities and final decision

S. No.	Article	Constitutional Authority	Decision which is final under Constitution	Does the provision mention that the decision cannot be questioned	Type (Based on case laws)	Reviewable (Based on case laws)	Supporting judgment of the Supreme Court
1	71(1)	Supreme Court	Decision on doubt or dispute in relation to the election of a President or a Vice-President	No	–	–	–

2	103(1)	President	Decision on whether a member of Parliament has become disqualified under Article 102(1)	No	Judicial	Yes	Brundaban Nayak v. Election Commission of India, AIR 1965 SC 1892 : (1965) 3 SCR 53; Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu, 1992 Supp (2) SCC 651 (¶¶184-94)
3	104(4) Proviso	Presiding person	Decision on whether an amendment is admissible under proviso to Article 108(4)	No	–	–	–
4	110(3)	Speaker	Decision on whether a bill is a money bill.	No	–	No	Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works v. State of Mysore, AIR 1963 SC 589 : 1963 Supp (1) SCR 275(¶5); Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui v. State of U.P., (2014) 11 SCC 415(¶¶37, 38& 43); Yogendra Kumar Jaiswal v. State of Bihar, (2016) 3 SCC 183 (¶43)
5	114(2)	Presiding person	Decision on whether an amendment is inadmissible under proviso to Article 114(2)	No	–	–	–

6	163(2)	Governor	Decision on whether any matter is or is not a matter with respect to which the Governor is required to act in his own discretion under the Constitution	Yes	–	–	–
7	192(1)	Governor	Decision on whether a member of the House of the State Legislature has become disqualified under Article 191(1)	No	Judicial	Yes	Brundaban Nayak v. Election Commission of India, AIR 1965 SC 1892 : (1965) 3 SCR 53; Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu, 1992 Supp (2) SCC 651 (¶¶84-94)
8	199(3)	Speaker	Decision on whether a bill is a money bill	No	–	No	Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works v. State of Mysore, AIR 1963 SC 589 : 1963 Supp (1) SCR 275(¶5); Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui v. State of U.P., (2014) 11 SCC 415(¶¶37, 38& 43); Yogendra Kumar Jaiswal v. State of Bihar, (2016) 3 SCC 183 (¶43)

9	204(2)	Presiding person	Decision on whether an amendment is inadmissible under proviso to Article 204(2)	No	–	–	–
10	217(3)	President	Decision on what is the age of a judge of a High Court	No	Judicial	Yes	Union of India v. Jyoti Prakash Mitter, (1971) 1 SCC 396 (¶132)
11	279(1)	Comptroller and Auditor-General of India	Certificate ascertaining net proceeds of any tax or duty, or any part of any tax or duty, in or attributable to any area	No	–	–	–
12	311(3)	Empowered authority	Decision on whether it is reasonably practicable to hold an enquiry under Article 311(2) before dismissing, removing or reducing the rank of a civil servant	No	Judicial	Yes	Union of India v. Tulsiram Patel, (1985) 3 SCC 398 (¶130)
13	371A(1)(b) Proviso	Governor	Decision on whether any matter is or is not a matter with respect to which the Governor is required to act in his own discretion under Article 371A(1)(b)	Yes	–	–	–

14	371A(2) (f)	Governor	Decision on all matters relating to the Tuensang district in Nagaland	No	–	–	–
15	371H(a)	Governor	Decision on whether any matter is or is not a matter with respect to which the Governor is required to act in his -own discretion under Article 371H(a)	Yes	–	–	–
16	6th Schedule, Para 9(2)	Governor	Decision as to the amount of royalty to be paid to the District Council under Schedule 6, ¶9(1)	No	–	–	–
17	10th Schedule, ¶6(1)	Speaker	Decision on whether a member of a House has become subject to disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.	No	Judicial	Yes	Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu, 1992 Supp (2) SCC 651 (¶¶84-94)

E. SUPREME COURT ON JUDICIAL REVIEW OF SPEAKER'S CERTIFICATE

The Supreme Court has on three previous occasions dealt with the question of whether it can exercise its judicial review powers in case of breach of the constitutional procedures in passing money bills.¹⁰⁶ Each time, the answer has been in the negative, based not only on an erroneous understanding

¹⁰⁶ All these cases pertain to the procedure of passing money bills in the State legislature. However, since the provisions are *in pari materia* with the ones on the procedure of passing money bills in the Parliament, these cases laws are valid precedents for both. See Constitution of India, Arts. 109, 110, 111, 122, 198, 199, 200, 212, 255. (Arts. 109, 110, 111 and 122 for

of several provisions of the Constitution of India, but also owing to a refusal to acknowledge the difference between ‘procedural irregularity’ and “procedural illegality” that it has itself developed to check the abuse of legislative immunity from judicial review.

In *Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works v. State of Mysore* (‘Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works’),¹⁰⁷ a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court was asked to determine whether the Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, 1955 was unconstitutional since it was not passed as a money bill. The appellant was a firm registered under the Mysore Sales Tax Act, 1948, under which it was liable to sales tax at the rate of 3 pies for every rupee on the turnover.¹⁰⁸ Because of the Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, 1955, the rate became 2 *naya* paisa per rupee, effectively imposing an additional tax burden of Rs. 25,038/- on the appellant.¹⁰⁹ The appellant’s contention was that since this amounted to an enhancement of tax, the law should have been enacted as a ‘money bill’ under Articles 198, 199 and 207 of the Constitution of India; and since no such ‘money bill’ was introduced or passed for the enhancement of tax, the tax should be held illegal and invalid.¹¹⁰ The court held that the Indian Coinage (Amendment) Act, 1955 substituted an old coinage with a new coinage and was not a tax.¹¹¹ However, it went on to remark:

“Even assuming that it is a taxing measure its validity cannot be challenged on the ground that it offends Arts. 197 to 199 and the procedure laid down in Art. 202 of the Constitution. Article 212 prohibits the validity of any proceedings in a legislature of a State from being called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure and Art. 255 lays down the requirements as to recommendation and previous sanction are to be regarded as matters of procedure only.”¹¹²

Not only was this remark by the Supreme Court an *obiter dictum*, it was also unnecessary and incorrect. It was unnecessary because the court had already held that the statute did not impose any tax and therefore, it could have been introduced as an ordinary bill instead of a money bill. It was incorrect because the court clearly did not apply its mind as to the potential ramifications of such a general principle that would render any violation of the constitutional procedure under Articles 197 to 199 and Article 202 immune

money bills in the Parliament correspond to Arts. 198, 199, 200 and 212 for money bills in the State Legislature. Art. 255 is applicable to both central and state laws).

¹⁰⁷ *Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works v. State of Mysore*, AIR 1963 SC 589 : 1963 Supp (1) SCR 275.

¹⁰⁸ *Id.*, ¶2.

¹⁰⁹ *Id.*

¹¹⁰ *Id.*, ¶5.

¹¹¹ *Id.*

¹¹² *Id.*

from judicial review. As has been observed earlier, Article 212 (and its counterpart in Article 122) only restrict judicial review of “irregularity of procedure”, if such procedure is made by the Parliament through law, or by each House under its rules. These Articles were not intended to prevent judicial review in case of breach of constitutional procedure like the ones mentioned in Articles 197 to 199 and Article 202. Even Article 255 does not treat certification of a bill by the Speaker as a ‘money bill’ as “matters of procedure” immune from judicial review. The oversight of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in this case, to differentiate between constitutional procedures and other procedures in legislations or rules, has been the foundation of the erroneous jurisprudence developed in subsequent decisions.

In *Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui v. State of U.P.* (‘Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui’),¹¹³ a three judge bench of the Supreme Court was asked to determine the constitutionality of U.P. Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2012. The unamended §5 of the Uttar Pradesh Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas Act, 1975 provided a six year term for a Lokayukta. It also provided that after ceasing to hold office, the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta shall be ineligible for further appointment, whether as a Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta or in any other capacity under the Government of Uttar Pradesh. After the new government entered office in 2012, the UP Lokayukta and Up-Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2012 was passed as a money bill, increasing the term of the Lokayukta or Up-Lokayukta from six years to eight years or till the successor enters upon his office. It also limited the ineligibility of the Lokayuktas or Up-Lokayuktas for further appointment under the Government of Uttar Pradesh. In this backdrop, the petitioners approached the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution of India challenging the Speaker’s certification of the bill as ‘money bill’.

The Supreme Court dismissed the petitions on the ground that “the question whether a Bill is a ‘money bill’ or not can be raised only in the State Legislative Assembly by a member thereof when the Bill is pending in the State Legislature and before it becomes an Act.”¹¹⁴ The Court erringly relied on the incorrect *obiter* in *Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works* to develop the following principles:

“(i) the validity of an Act cannot be challenged on the ground that it offends Articles 197 to 199 and the procedure laid down in Article 202; (ii) Article 212 prohibits the validity of any proceedings in a Legislature of a State from being called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure; and (iii) Article 255 lays down that the requirements as to recommendation and previous sanction are to be regarded

¹¹³ *Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui v. State of U.P.*, (2014) 11 SCC 415.

¹¹⁴ *Id.*, ¶38.

as a matter of procedure only. It is further held that the validity of the proceedings inside the Legislature of a State cannot be called in question on the allegation that the procedure laid down by the law has not been strictly followed and that no Court can go into those questions which are within the special jurisdiction of the Legislature itself, which has the power to conduct its own business.”¹¹⁵

It placed reliance on Articles 212 and 255 to justify non-interference with the Speaker’s decision of certification of a bill as ‘money bill’ on the following ground:

“As discussed above, the decision of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly that the Bill in question was a ‘money bill’ is final and the said decision cannot be disputed nor can the procedure of the State Legislature be questioned by virtue of Article 212. Further, as noted earlier, Article 255 also shows that under the Constitution the matters of procedure do not render invalid an Act to which assent has been given to by the President or the Governor, as the case may be. In as much as the Bill in question was a Money Bill, the contrary contention by the Petitioner against the passing of the said Bill by the Legislative Assembly alone is unacceptable.”¹¹⁶

This three judge bench of the Supreme Court again failed to appreciate the difference between constitutional procedures mentioned in Articles 197 to 199 and Article 202, as against the procedures in legislations or the rules of each House. It interpreted the words “proceedings in the Legislature” in Article 212(1) to include “everything said or done in either House in the transaction of the Parliamentary Business, which in the present case is enactment of the Amendment Act.”¹¹⁷ In doing so, it converted the incorrect *obiter* of the Constitution Bench in *Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works* into a binding *ratio*.

Next, a Division Bench of the Supreme Court in *Yogendra Kumar Jaiswal v. State of Bihar* was called upon to decide on the constitutionality

¹¹⁵ *Id.*, ¶37.

¹¹⁶ *Id.*, ¶43.

¹¹⁷ *Id.*, ¶43; See Scroll.in, *Why the Centre’s dubious use of money bills must not go unchallenged*, May 11, 2016, available at <https://scroll.in/article/807861/why-the-centres-dubious-use-of-money-bills-must-not-go-unchallenged> (Last visited on February 10, 2017) (The commentator has argued that the decision of the Supreme Court in *Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui* is wrong for this precise reason); See *The Hindu*, *What exactly is a money bill?*, available at <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/what-exactly-is-a-money-bill/article17372184.ece> (Last visited on February 27, 2017) (The commentator has argued that the judgment of the Supreme Court in *Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui* fails to rectify a constitutional error).

of Orissa Special Courts Act, 2006.¹¹⁸ The Orissa State Legislative Assembly, keeping in view the accumulation of extensive properties disproportionate to the known sources of income, by persons who had held or are holding high political and public offices, thought it appropriate to provide special courts for speedy trial for certain class of offences and for confiscation of properties involved.¹¹⁹ Accordingly, the Orissa Special Courts Act, 2006 was enacted as a money bill.¹²⁰ The statute was challenged *inter alia* on the ground that it did not qualify to be passed as a money bill. The Court brushed aside the appellant's plea to review the Speaker's certification of the bill as a 'money bill' with the following observation:

"In our considered opinion, the authorities cited by the learned Counsel for the Appellants do not render much assistance, for the introduction of a bill, as has been held in Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui, comes within the concept of 'irregularity' and it does come with the realm of substantiality. What has been held in the Special Reference No. 1 of 1964 (supra) has to be appositely understood. The factual matrix therein was totally different than the case at hand as we find that the present controversy is wholly covered by the pronouncement in Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui and hence, we unhesitatingly hold that there is no merit in the submission so assiduously urged by the learned Counsel for the Appellants."¹²¹

The Supreme Court once again blindly followed the precedent in Mohd. Saeed Siddiqui, which itself was based on an erroneous passing reference made by the court in Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works.

Because of these three decisions of the Supreme Court, the current legal position in India is that the certification of a bill as 'money bill' by the Speaker is beyond the judicial review powers of the Supreme Court. Not only does this position contradict the Supreme Court's own precedents on Articles 122 and 212 in cases of breach of legislative privilege under Articles 105 and 194, it is also at odds with the approach adopted across other common law jurisdictions.

¹¹⁸ See *Yogendra Kumar Jaiswal v. State of Bihar*, (2016) 3 SCC 183.

¹¹⁹ *Id.*, ¶¶4, 13.

¹²⁰ *Id.*

¹²¹ *Id.*, ¶43.

IV. JUDICIAL REVIEW IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

A. AUSTRALIA

The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900 does not use the term ‘money bill’. Instead, §53 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900 lays down that “proposed laws” appropriating revenue or moneys, or imposing taxation can originate only in the House of Representatives (Lower House). For all other “proposed laws”, the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives enjoy equal powers. §55 imposes certain limitations on ‘laws’ imposing taxation.¹²² The first paragraph of Article 55 mandates that laws imposing taxation will *only* deal with the imposition of taxation and the second paragraph restricts the scope of such laws to one subject of taxation at a time.¹²³ The Australian jurisprudence on judicial review of constitutional procedure followed for “proposed laws” and “laws” has been markedly different.

The Australian High Court in *Western Australia v. Commonwealth* held that §53 is a procedural provision governing the intra-mural activities of the Parliament.¹²⁴ It observed that the traditional view is that the court does not interfere in those activities.¹²⁵ Similarly, in *Northern Suburbs General Cemetery Reserve Trust v. Commonwealth*, it held that a failure to comply with the dictates of a procedural provision, such as §54, dealing with a ‘bill’ or a

¹²² The Constitution of Australia, The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900, §55 (“Laws imposing taxation shall deal only with the imposition of taxation, and any provision therein dealing with any other matter shall be of no effect. Laws imposing taxation, except laws imposing duties of customs or of excise, shall deal with one subject of taxation only; but laws imposing duties of customs shall deal with duties of customs only, and laws imposing duties of excise shall deal with duties of excise only.”)

¹²³ The first paragraph has led to a unique practice in Australia of splitting tax bills into separate legislations, namely, a taxing law imposing taxation and an assessment law providing for the assessment, collection and the recovery of tax. It was the traditional view that an assessment law did not deal with the imposition of tax and hence must be kept separate; else, it would preclude the Senate from amending the same. For example, the New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition – Customs) Act, 1999, the New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition – Excise) Act, 1999 and the New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax Imposition – General) Act, 1999 actually impose the tax, and the New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act, 1999 and the Taxation Administration Act, 1953 are the corresponding assessment laws. *See* Dymond, In re, (1959) 101 CLR 11 (The validity of the practice of splitting tax bills was affirmed by the Australian High Court. However, this affirmation was qualified with an exception that where there was no attempt of ‘tacking’ by the House of Representatives, a taxing law may deal with the assessment, collection and recovery of taxation without violating §55. In the present context, ‘tacking’ refers to a practice whereby the House of Representatives abuses its power by including measures other than those related to taxation in a taxation law); *See* Permanent Trustee Australia Ltd. v. Commr. of State Revenue, 2004 HCA 53.

¹²⁴ *Western Australia v. Commonwealth*, (1995) 183 CLR 373.

¹²⁵ *Id.*, ¶140.

“proposed law” is not contemporaneously justiciable and does not give rise to invalidity of the resulting Act when it has been passed by the two Houses of the Parliament and has received the royal assent.¹²⁶

The significant distinction between §53 and §54 on one hand, and §55 on the other, with regard to judicial review, has been highlighted in the following passage from *Osborne v. Commonwealth*:

“Secs. 53 and 54 deal with ‘proposed laws’ - that is, Bills or projects of law still under consideration and not assented to – and they lay down rules to be observed with respect to proposed laws at that stage. Whatever obligations are imposed by these sections are directed to the Houses of Parliament whose conduct of their internal affairs is not subject to review by a Court of law. Sec. 55, on the other hand, deals with proposals which have received the Royal assent, and which can be reviewed by Courts of law, if they offend against constitutional provisions.”¹²⁷

Evidently, because of the unique usage of the phrases “proposed law” and “law” in the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900, the jurisprudence evolved by Australian courts treats contravention of constitutional provisions dealing with “proposed laws” only to be internal affairs of the Houses, and hence beyond the remit of judicial review. However, judicial review is possible on any alleged contravention of constitutional provisions dealing with “laws.” Consequently, if a “law” imposing taxation in Australia has any provision other than the imposition of taxation, the Australian High Court can exercise its judicial review powers to render such additional provision ineffective by virtue of §55 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900.

B. CANADA

The Canadian Constitution Act, 1867 does not use the term ‘money bill’ either.¹²⁸ §53 mandates that a bill imposing a tax or appropriating public

¹²⁶ Northern Suburbs General Cemetery Reserve Trust v. Commonwealth, (1993) 176 CLR 555. The Constitution of Australia, The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900, §54 (§54 mandates that “the proposed law which appropriates revenue or moneys for the ordinary annual services of the Government shall deal only with such appropriation”).

¹²⁷ Osborne v. Commonwealth, (1911) 12 CLR 321 (The mandatory nature of §55 and non-justiciability of §53 and §54 were further upheld); See *Western Australia v. Commonwealth*, (1995) 183 CLR 373.

¹²⁸ See Joan Small, *Money Bills and the use of the Royal recommendation in Canada: Practice versus Principle?*, 27(1) OTTAWA LAW REVIEW 33-58 (1995). (The definition of ‘money bill’ itself has been a subject of long-standing debate in Canada. Additionally, the Senate and the House of Commons disagree on whether the power of the Senate is limited to initiate or amend a ‘money bill’).

revenue must originate in the House of Commons.¹²⁹ §54 then goes on to state that the House of Commons can adopt or pass such a bill only if it has been first recommended by the Governor General.¹³⁰

Whether the process laid under §§53 and 54 of the Constitution Act, 1867 is subject to judicial review has been a contentious issue in Canada. In *Agricultural Products Mktg., In re*, the constitutionality of the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, 1970 was challenged before the Canadian Supreme Court.¹³¹ The Agricultural Products Marketing Act, 1970 provided for an egg marketing scheme which imposed quotas for export of eggs by the provinces. The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency was created and empowered to impose levies and charges. The Supreme Court of Canada was asked to determine whether the lack of the Governor's recommendation under §54 of the Constitution Act, 1867 before passing the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, 1970 rendered it unconstitutional. The Court concluded that Agricultural Products Marketing Act, 1970 did not impose any tax. The levies were merely ingredients of a regulatory scheme and fall to be considered as elements thereof. Therefore, the court did not conclusively decide whether the compliance with the procedure under sections 53 and 54 are subject to judicial review. However, the Court expressly negated the respondent's argument based on English precedents that it was only for the House of Commons to enforce the procedure under §54 without judicial intervention.¹³²

In *Canada Assistance Plan, In re*, the Supreme Court of Canada was presented with another opportunity to reflect on this question.¹³³ In 1990, the Canadian federal government, in order to reduce the federal budget deficit, decided to cut expenditures and limit the growth of payments made to financially stronger provinces under the Canada Assistance Plan ('Plan'). This change was embodied in the Government Expenditures Restraint Act, 1991. Under the Plan, the federal government concluded agreements with the provinces to share the cost of their expenditures on social assistance and welfare. The Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia referred a constitutional question to British Columbia Court of Appeal: whether the terms of the agreement, the subsequent conduct of the Government of Canada pursuant to the agreement, and the provisions of the Plan, gave rise to a legitimate expectation that

¹²⁹ The Constitution of Canada, The Constitution Act, 1867, §53 ("Bills for appropriating any Part of the Public Revenue, or for imposing any Tax or Impost, shall originate in the House of Commons.")

¹³⁰ The Constitution of Canada, The Constitution Act, 1867, §54 (states: "It shall not be lawful for the House of Commons to adopt or pass any Vote, Resolution, Address, or Bill for the Appropriation of any Part of the Public Revenue, or of any Tax or Impost, to any Purpose that has not been first recommended to that House by Message of the Governor General in the Session in which such Vote, Resolution, Address, or Bill is proposed.")

¹³¹ *Agricultural Products Mktg., In re*, (1978) 2 SCR 1198.

¹³² *Id.*, 1227.

¹³³ *Canada Assistance Plan, In re*, (1991) 2 SCR 525.

the Government of Canada would introduce no bill into Parliament to limit its obligation under the Agreement or the Plan without the consent of British Columbia. The Court observed:

“The formulation and introduction of a bill are part of the legislative process with which the courts will not meddle. So too is the purely procedural requirement in s. 54 of the Constitution Act, 1867. *That is not to say that this requirement is unnecessary; it must be complied with to create fiscal legislation.* But it is not the place of the courts to interpose further procedural requirements in the legislative process.”¹³⁴

On this basis, the Court refused to impose an additional procedural obligation – like legitimate expectation – on the legislative powers of the Government, but categorically stated that the procedure under §54 must be complied with.¹³⁵ Therefore, it can be concluded that Canadian courts have been inclined towards judicial review of the constitutional process of legislation-making by the Canadian legislature, although they have not had the occasion of using it to strike down any legislation.

C. SOUTH AFRICA

§77 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 exhaustively defines ‘money bill’, while §75 lays down the procedure of interaction between the National Assembly (Lower House) and the National Council of Provinces (Upper House) in passing a money bill.¹³⁶ In *South African Reserve Bank v. Mark Richard Shuttleworth*,¹³⁷ the Constitutional Court of South Africa touched upon these provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. In 2003 the Minister of Finance announced that the Exchange Control Regulations would be relaxed, enabling emigrants to unwind and export blocked assets subject to specified conditions. Mr. Shuttleworth, who had made a considerable amount of money in South Africa, emigrated to the Isle of Man in 2001. In 2008, he applied to the Reserve Bank for permission to transfer around ZAR 1.5 billion out of South Africa. The request was granted

¹³⁴ *Id.*

¹³⁵ See Small, *supra* note 128 (Legal scholars have also supported judicial review in case of non-compliance. This is because §54 specifically provides that “it shall not be lawful” to pass a bill described therein without a royal recommendation. Effect must be given to these words. If the courts will not review the actions under §54, then Parliament is free to ignore the prescription that ‘it shall not be lawful’. Accordingly, it has been suggested that “the legal question can never be resolved internally; that is, as between the two Chambers. Instead, one must look to the courts”).

¹³⁶ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, §75(c) states that if the Council rejects the money bill or passes it subject to amendments, the Assembly must reconsider the bill and may pass it with or without such amendments.

¹³⁷ *South African Reserve Bank v. Mark Richard Shuttleworth*, (2015) 5 SA 146 (CC).

by the Bank subject to an exit charge of 10 %. In 2009 he made a further transfer and once again an exit charge was extracted from him. Mr. Shuttleworth requested that the Reserve Bank reconsider its decision to impose the charge. The Reserve Bank refused. This led to the litigation which ultimately went up to the Constitutional Court of South Africa. The question before the Court was whether the decision of the Reserve Bank of South Africa to impose a 10 % exit levy payment on the value of the assets sought to be exported by Mr. Shuttleworth was constitutional. Mr. Shuttleworth contended that the levy amounted to a tax; and that the Reserve Bank's imposition of such tax was unconstitutional because it was not imposed through a statute passed by the Parliament in accordance with §§75 and 77 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996. Although the Apex Court rejected Mr. Shuttleworth's contention that the levy was a tax, it observed:

“If the exit charge was directed at raising revenue and therefore was a national tax, it would be hit by the formalities for adopting a money Bill. On the other hand, if the exit charge was not calculated to raise revenue and thus was not akin to a money Bill, it would not have to comply with §9(4). Let it suffice to note that §§75 and 77 of the Constitution have superseded the provisions of §9(4) of the Act. *This means that a Bill that is ‘calculated to raise revenue’ by imposing a national tax must comply with the constitutional requirements for a money Bill.*”¹³⁸

Evidently the Court exercised its powers of judicial review in this case and concluded that since the impugned exit charge was not “calculated to raise revenue”, it was not unconstitutional under Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

D. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Constitution of the United States of America does not use the term ‘money bill’. Instead, the “Origination Clause” gives the House of Representatives (Lower House) the power to originate bills for “raising revenue.”¹³⁹ Further, it prohibits the Senate from proposing any amendment that would turn a revenue measure into a non-revenue measure.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁸ *Id.*, ¶62.

¹³⁹ The Constitution of the United States of America, 1787, Art. I, §7(1) (§7, clause 1 is referred to as the ‘Origination Clause’. This clause states: “All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other Bills).

¹⁴⁰ See CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE, *The Origination Clause of the U.S. Constitution: Interpretation and Enforcement*, 1 (March 15, 2011), available at <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL31399.pdf> (Last visited on June 10, 2017) (‘CRS’).

The US Supreme Court in *Field v. Clark* developed the ‘enrolled bill’ doctrine which requires courts to accept the signatures of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate on the ‘enrolled bill’ as ‘complete and unimpeachable’ evidence that a bill has been properly and constitutionally enacted.¹⁴¹ However, this doctrine has not restricted the Supreme Court from using its judicial review powers to hear constitutional challenges based on alleged violation of the Origination Clause.¹⁴² For instance, in *United States v. Munoz-Flores* (‘Munoz-Flores’), a statute was challenged before the Supreme Court on the ground that its enactment process violated the Origination Clause in The Constitution of the United States of America. The government argued that judicial invalidation of a law for breach of the Origination Clause would evince a lack of respect for the House’s determination. The Court rejected the government’s argument and went on to exercise its powers of judicial review. It concluded that the statute was not a ‘bill for raising revenue’ and therefore, did not violate the Origination Clause. While rendering the majority judgment, Justice Marshall reasoned:

“To survive this Court’s scrutiny, the “law” must comply with all relevant constitutional limits. A law passed in violation of the Origination Clause would thus be no more immune from judicial scrutiny because it was passed by both Houses and signed by the President than would be a law passed in violation of the First Amendment.”¹⁴³

Effectively, under American law, allegation of breach of a constitutional procedure in enacting a law is a valid ground for judicial review.¹⁴⁴ Such judicial review cannot be restricted merely because the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate have signed off the bill. Although the US Supreme Court has primarily limited its role to determining whether a measure is a ‘bill for raising revenue’, cases like *Munoz-Flores* have shown that the House is not

¹⁴¹ See *Field v. Clark*, 1892 SCC OnLine US SC 74 : 36 L Ed 294 : 143 US 649 (1892) (Practical concerns have emerged regarding the application of the ‘enrolled bill’ rule. For instance, there has been evidence to suggest that the House and Senate passed different versions of the bill leading up to the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act, 2005. Six cases have challenged the constitutionality of that legislation. Yet, the courts have dismissed all these challenges on the ground that the ‘enrolled bill’ rule precludes judicial review). Sandler, *supra* note 50, 214.

¹⁴² See *Bar-Siman-Tov*, *supra* note 78. (The commentator has gone to the extent of claiming that the decision of the Supreme Court in *Munoz-Flores* has rendered the ‘enrolled bill’ doctrine doctrinally unstable).

¹⁴³ *United States v. Munoz-Flores*, 1990 SCC OnLine US SC 73 : 109 L Ed 2d 384 : 495 US 385, 398 (1990).

¹⁴⁴ Only a handful of such ‘Origination Clause’ challenges have been made before the US Supreme Court. These cases have questioned whether the challenged act is actually a ‘bill for raising revenue’ that triggers the Origination Clause’s requirements. Tessa L. Dysar, *The origination clause, the Affordable Care Act, and the indirect constitutional violations*, 24(3) CORNELL J.L. & PUB. POL’Y 451-492, 460 (2015).

the ultimate authority with respect to determining the meaning or enforcement of its prerogatives under the Origination Clause.¹⁴⁵

E. PAKISTAN

Articles 73 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan lays down the procedure with respect to ‘money bill’ along with an exhaustive definition. Like the Constitution of India, Article 73(4) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan gives finality to the decision of the Speaker of the National Assembly if any question arises as to whether a bill is a ‘money bill’ or not. Like the Constitution of India, Article 73(5) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan mentions that every ‘money bill’ presented to the President for assent must bear a certificate under the hand of the Speaker of the National Assembly that it is a money bill. However, unlike the Constitution of India, Article 73(5) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan states that “such certificate shall be conclusive for all purposes and shall not be called in question.” In spite of such explicit conclusive status given to the Speaker’s certificate, the Pakistan Supreme Court has not only exercised judicial review over the Speaker’s certificate, it has also struck down legislation enacted as ‘money bill’ as unconstitutional for failing to comply with the constitutional procedure.

In *Sindh High Court Bar Assn. v. Federation of Pakistan*, the amendment to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997 through a ‘money bill’ – the Finance Act, 2008 – was challenged as unconstitutional. Since the amendment to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, did not fall within the definition of ‘money bill’ in Article 73 of the Constitution, the Court declared it unconstitutional and referred it back to the Parliament.¹⁴⁶

In *Mir Muhammad Idris v. Federation of Pakistan*, the question before the Supreme Court was whether §11(3)(d) of the Banks Nationalisation Act, 1974, which related to the appointment of Chairman, President and members of the Board of the National Bank of Pakistan, could have been amended by the Finance Act, 2007 – a money bill. Under §11(3)(d), a person could be appointed as President of the National Bank of Pakistan for not more than two terms. This provision had been amended through multiple ordinances, and finally through the Finance Act, 2007 to allow the respondent to hold office. The Supreme Court struck down this amendment since it did not fall within the definition of a ‘money bill’ within the meaning of Article 73 of the Constitution

¹⁴⁵ CRS, *supra* note 140.

¹⁴⁶ *Sindh High Court Bar Assn. v. Federation of Pakistan*, 2010 SCC OnLine Pak SC 3 : PLD 2009 SC 879.

of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and since it lacked the approval of both the Houses of Parliament.¹⁴⁷

Similarly, in *Mohd. Ashraf Tiwana v. Pakistan*, a savings clause was added to §5 of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Act, 1997 through a ‘money bill’ – the Finance Act, 2003 – to prevent actions and proceedings undertaken by the Commission from being invalidated due to a vacancy or defect in constitution of the Commission. This amendment was challenged for being beyond the scope of the definition of ‘money bill’ under Article 73 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Supreme Court struck down the amendment as unconstitutional since the impugned amendment did not fall within the scope of the definition of ‘money bill’.¹⁴⁸

Again in *Federation of Pakistan v. Durrani Ceramics*, the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess Act, 2011 was enacted as a ‘money bill’ for the stated purpose of collection of the cess for the construction of pipelines for importing natural gas, and for equalization of gas prices with other imported fuels such as LNG from most gas consumers. It was challenged as unconstitutional on the ground that it did not fall within the definition of ‘money bill’ under Article 73 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Supreme Court concluded that the imposition was not a tax but a fee. Accordingly, it could not have been imposed through a ‘money bill’, and on this ground the statute was struck down.¹⁴⁹

Evidently, the Pakistan Supreme Court has been extremely active in exercising judicial review over the Speaker’s certification of bills as ‘money bills’ even though Article 73 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of *Pakistan* clearly states that “such certificate shall be *conclusive for all purpose and shall not be called in question.*”

V. CONCLUSION

A detailed review of the drafting history as well as the text of the Constitution of India suggests that in India, legislative proceedings are immune from judicial review only on the ground of “irregularity of procedure.” In other words, if a House commits breach of any procedure in any rule made by itself, or in any legislation that the Houses themselves had passed, such breach is an internal matter for the House itself to act on. It is not open to judicial review. But if a House commits a breach of any constitutional procedure, such breach is open to judicial review. A contrary interpretation would effectively render the constitutional design of a bicameral legislative system completely redundant.

¹⁴⁷ *Mir Muhammad Idris v. Federation of Pakistan*, 2011 SCC OnLine Pak SC 9 : PLD 2011 SC 213, ¶11.

¹⁴⁸ *Mohd. Ashraf Tiwana v. Pakistan*, 2013 SCC OnLine Pak SC 26 : 2013 SCMR 1159, 1192, ¶41.

¹⁴⁹ *Federation of Pakistan v. Durrani Ceramics*, 2015 SCC OnLine Pak SC 33.

The Speaker can certify each and every bill to be a 'money bill', practically dispensing with the need for the Upper House. It is submitted that when a Speaker incorrectly certifies a bill as a 'money bill' under Article 110(4) or 199(4), such incorrect certification is no more an "irregularity of procedure", but it is transmuted to a breach of a cardinal constitutional provision. Therefore, the Indian Supreme Court can legitimately exercise its judicial review powers to review the Speaker's certificate and strike down any law passed as 'money bill' in contravention of the very definition of 'money bill' under the *Constitution of India*.

This position is supported by precedents across common law jurisdictions. Foreign courts recognise the need for exercise of judicial review to ensure legislative compliance with constitutional procedure. This is especially necessary to avoid the possibility of the age old problem of 'tacking', where the Lower House can incorporate unrelated provisions within a 'money bill' to avoid interference by the Upper House. Pakistan, which has very similarly worded constitutional provisions on finality of the Speaker's decision, has been particularly vigilant in exercising its judicial review powers in this regard, to strike down legislations camouflaged as money bills.

Even the Indian Supreme Court's own jurisprudence with respect to judicial review of legislative privileges under Articles 105 and 194 clearly distinguishes between 'procedural irregularity' and "procedural illegality." The Supreme Court has in a catena of cases used its judicial review powers in legislative affairs on the ground that the allegations were of "procedural illegality" and not merely 'procedural irregularity'. Moreover, the 'final' status granted to the Speaker's decision under Articles 110 and 199 cannot immunise such decision from judicial review either. As noted earlier, the Supreme Court itself has exercised judicial review over other types of 'final' decisions made by various constitutional authorities including the Speaker under other provisions of the Constitution of India. Yet, the same Court has failed to extend the same principles to review legislations incorrectly enacted as money bills on the erroneous logic that Articles 112, 212 and 255 render such patent illegality immune from judicial scrutiny. Jairam Ramesh offers the Supreme Court one more opportunity to rectify this contradiction in its own jurisprudence and to settle the law regarding its powers of judicial review over the Speaker's certification of a bill as 'money bill'.

