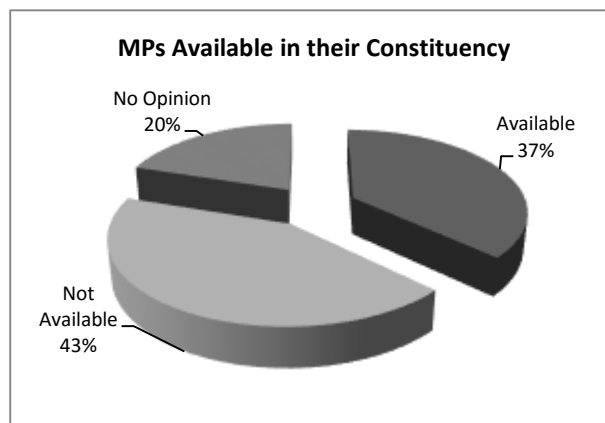


Citizen's Perceptions of their MPs – Two years of 16th Lok Sabha

Members of Parliament (MP) matters for the overall performance of the Union government as well as success of its individual schemes and Ministries. This is why CMS tried to analyse their performance on the eve of completion of two years of Modi government. The Study probed how active MPs are in the last two years, specially because Prime Minister Modi has called upon MPs of ruling party more than twice in the last two years with specific suggestion that they devote more time for the constituency, promote and take forward government schemes and meet as daily routine as many people of constituency.

Accessibility

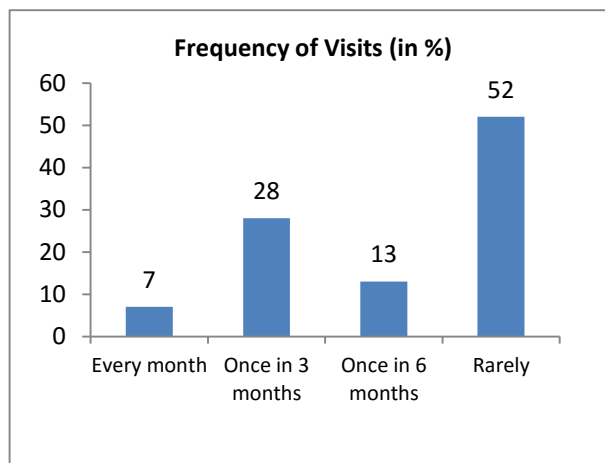
- Only one-third of local residents acknowledged availability of their MP in the constituency. More than 40% of the stakeholders feel that their MPs are **not available** in their constituency. Further on being enquired whether they are 'available in Delhi', nearly 40 percent had no idea, while out of remaining stakeholders, who hold an opinion, 62% opined that their MPs are not accessible even in Delhi.



Visits to constituency

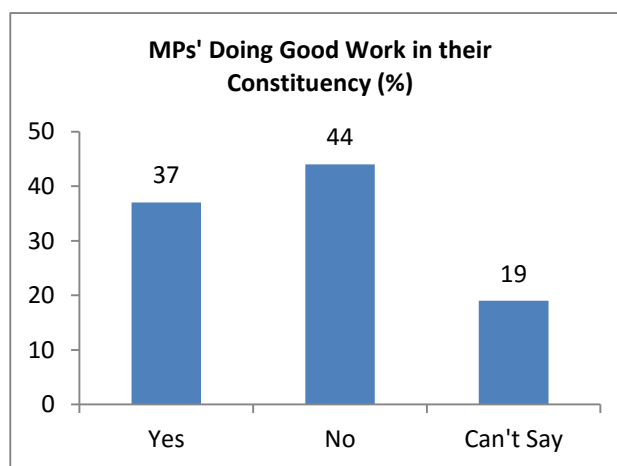
- **How often do MPs visit their constituency?**

More than half of the stakeholders feel that their MP is 'rarely seen' in the constituencies while around 28% opined that MP of their constituency visit only 'once in three months'.

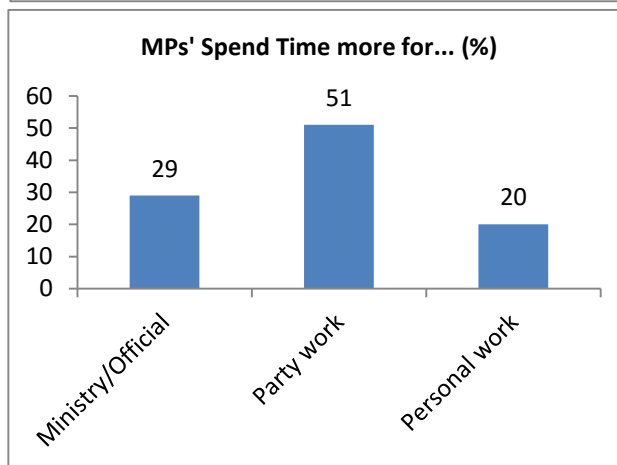


- **Work in their constituency**

Only a little more than one-third of the stakeholders opined that their MP is doing good work for the constituencies. Yes, MPs in BJP states apparently doing better. For, 44 percent of respondents in BJP represented clusters state acknowledge good work of their MPs against only 20 percent in non – BJP represented clusters.



- **Spends more time on official work or party work or for personal work:** More than half of the stakeholders feel that focus of MPs is more on their respective party related activities while another 20 percent feel that MPs are more interested in their personal work.



MPs Doing “Good”		Percent
	Clusters represented by	
	BJP MPs	Non BJP MPs
Yes	44	20
No	45	40
Don’t know/ Can’t say	11	40

Source: CMS Study 2016

MPs Doing “Good” - by Region		Percent			
	South	North	West	East	
Yes, doing “good”	21	38	53	33	
Rarely visits	64	52	27	65	
Not available locally	33	52	49	45	
Engaged in personal work more	18	25	25	17	

Source: CMS Study 2016

Relatively more respondents in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra have acknowledged that their MPs were doing good for their constituencies. Relatively more in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, think their MP rarely visits the constituency or not available locally.

These are the findings of larger study of CMS on completion of two years of Modi government. The study in 70 clusters of 15 states was conducted in March – April 2016, with a stakeholder reflective sample of 4000.

And yet a demand to double up emoluments of MPs during the last one year has gained support in the Parliament. But for Prime Minister Modi, by now that would have happened after the Parliamentary Committee’s recommendation.



MPs have been seeking almost doubling of their emoluments and, in fact, there was a move to periodically increase their emoluments as if going by cost of living index as in the case of Government employees? For, those who watch proceedings of Parliament on television think that Members of Parliament are hardly seen making effort to put up a better performance.

Looking into the utilization of MPLAD funds by these MPs, only two-third of the funds available under the scheme have been sanctioned. While around only one-fourth of members, who got full amount sanctioned, are of ruling party.

If the scope of questions of MPs in the Parliament is considered, their performance comes out rather disappointedly. If “conflict of interest” of sitting MPs is considered it may be even more disappointing a CMS study in the earlier House indicated. For example, 80 MPs are alleged having direct interest in private medical education. This study reminds that need for transparency in the functioning of MPs and their concerns, including in the spending of MP development fund.

This study brings out that perhaps the very selection of candidates of parties to contest for the Parliament was not locally matching to the expectations and aspirations of local people.

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