



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Questionnaire for the Parline Database: Annual activities of parliament in 2020

About this questionnaire

At the start of each year, the IPU collects factual data from all parliaments on their annual activities during the previous year(s). This data is published in the [Parline](https://data.ipu.org/) database on national parliaments (<https://data.ipu.org/>).

This questionnaire seeks to collect data for the year 2020, which was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Parliaments were affected in various ways, but in the face of numerous logistical challenges, continued to hold sessions physically or virtually (Q12), to adopt laws (Q3), to hold the government to account (Q9) -- even launching parliamentary inquiries related to the Government's handling of the pandemic (Q10). This questionnaire captures this valuable data through 15 routine questions and 10 questions on 'Salaries and Allowances' that track the changes to and evolution of parliamentary mandates, working methods, administration, law-making, oversight and budget.

This and other data in the Parline database underpin analysis that supports [IPU's Strategic objectives](#) and monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It also enables IPU to tell compelling stories through comparative data visualisations. As the latest year in which data is known for a parliament (i.e., reported) is displayed in Parline, a response to this questionnaire allows parliaments to demonstrate that they continued to function and exercise their constitutional mandate in 2020, despite the challenges created by COVID-19.

We expect that the questionnaire should take around 4 hours to complete, depending on how easily available the information is. Parliaments are kindly requested to complete the questionnaire by **15 March 2021**. The preferred method is to complete the questionnaire [online here](#). Alternatively, parliaments may complete the questionnaire in Word and return it to parline@ipu.org.

This questionnaire has been sent to the Parline Correspondent in each parliament, with copy to the parliament's IPU Group. Parliaments that have not yet designated a Parline Correspondent are requested to do so at the earliest opportunity. More information about Parline Correspondents is available at <https://data.ipu.org/content/parliaments> along with a 'Checklist' of what Parline updates should be reported and when.

Notes

Questions 1-8 & 23-25 are applicable to the entire parliament, whether unicameral or bicameral. For others, space is provided to report data for each chamber of a bicameral parliament.

Please provide data for the calendar year (1 January to 31 December), whenever possible. If it is not possible to provide data for the calendar year, please specify the reference period (for example, 1 April to 31 March) in the Notes field at the end of the questionnaire. Any other supporting information can also be provided in this Notes field. If the supporting information refers to a specific question, please indicate the question number.

About Parline

[Parline](#) is a unique and free source of comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date reference information on parliaments around the world. IPU depends on parliaments to regularly supply information and updates to ensure shared responsibility for Parline and the integrity of the data it houses. It provides parliaments, academics, students, international organizations, the media and many other database users with a comparative perspective on the composition and working methods of parliaments. Data is frequently used for research, correspondence, and briefing purposes. It is the official source of data for **SDG indicators 5.5.1** and **16.7.1(a)**.

For more information about Parline, please visit the "[About](#)" page or contact Ms. Addie Erwin at parline@ipu.org.



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Identification

Country: JAPAN

Date: 2021/03/15

Please provide contact details for the person that we can contact for further details for clarifications.

Name:

Ms. [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED]

Job title:

Assistant Director of Interparliamentary Relations Division (HR)

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+81-3-[REDACTED]

Are you the [Parline Correspondent](#) for your parliament/chamber?

Yes No

Questions – for each of the following, in 2020:

1. Were there any amendments to the Constitution or the electoral law affecting the structure of your parliament?

Yes No

If **yes**, please provide details (e.g., structural changes, name change for chamber, date change(s) took place etc.)

2. Were there any amendments to the Constitution or the electoral law affecting the statutory number of members in your parliament?

Yes No

【For your reference】

In accordance with amendments to the electoral law, promulgated on 25 July 2018, the number of members elected under the majority system has increased from 146 to 148, and those elected under the proportional system increased from 96 to 100. Accordingly, the total number of members of the House of Councillors has increased from 242 to 248. The new statutory number is being applied in two phases. In the July 2019 elections one half of the 148 seats under the proportional representation system (i.e. 74) and one half of the 100 majority seats (i.e. 50) were

renewed. The 124 new members have joined the remaining 121 members (whose term is not up in 2019), and the House of Councillors now has a total of 245 members. The House of Councillors will have the full 248 after the next half renewal, due in 2022.

If **yes**, please provide details (e.g., previous number of members, new number of members, date change(s) took place etc.)

3. How many laws were adopted by Parliament?	79
4. How many times did the Head of State decline to give assent to legislation passed by Parliament? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>If the Head of State cannot decline to give assent to legislation, please check this box and move on to the next question.</i>	
5. How many times did the Executive use a procedure to introduce emergency legislation into Parliament? <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If there is no procedure for introducing emergency legislation, please check this box and move on to the next question.</i>	0
6. What was the State budget? <i>Reference date: 31 December of that year</i> <i>Please indicate the currency.</i>	Currency: JPY 102,658 billion

7. What was Parliament's budget?

Please provide an overall figure for the Parliament.

For bicameral parliaments: where applicable, please also provide the budget for the lower and upper chambers.

Parliament	Lower chamber	Upper chamber
108,062 million JPY	66,673 million JPY	41,389 million JPY

8. How many staff were employed by parliament?

Please provide the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Secretariat staff.

Please provide an overall figure for the Parliament.

For bicameral parliaments: where applicable, please also provide the number of staff employed by the lower and upper chambers

Reference date: 31 December of that year

Parliament	Lower chamber	Upper chamber
2,994	1,705	1,289

9. How many written questions were submitted to and answered by the Executive?

	Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
Submitted	390	284
Answered	390	284

10. How many parliamentary inquiries¹ were carried out?

Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber

The number of parliamentary enquiries cannot be counted because they are conducted on an almost daily basis in various forms.

11. On what date did the Executive submit the draft budget to Parliament, and on what date did Parliament adopt the budget?

Please use the date format DD/MM/YYYY.

	Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
Submitted	20/01/2020	
Adopted	27/03/2020	

12. How many days did parliament meet in plenary²?

Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
46	36

13. How many parliamentary groups were there?

Reference date: 31 December of that year

Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
6	10

¹ The aims and objectives of parliamentary inquiries cover a large spectrum: from a general examination of an issue of public interest to an investigative inquiry into a specific topic, the results of which may have penal implications. See page 39 of IPU (2007) "Tools for Parliamentary Oversight" which further describes parliamentary inquiries, <http://archive.ipu.org/PDF/publications/oversight08-e.pdf>.

² This may include virtual sessions.

Parliamentary Salaries & Allowances

14. What was the basic annual salary of parliamentarians?

Please provide the gross basic annual salary (before tax), not including allowances.

Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
13,457,600 JPY	13,457,600 JPY

15. Have parliamentary salaries or allowances been reduced since 2020 as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes No

Information on allowances was last updated in 2012. Please review the data for your parliament in [Parline](#) under the 'Parliamentary Mandate' section and provide updated information via questions 16-25.

Please indicate the total basic allowance(s) provided to parliamentarians:

"Basic allowances" are automatically paid to all parliamentarians. They are received in advance as a lump sum at a flat rate. They are not intended to be reimbursed for any expenses. They vary across parliaments, and are sometimes called "representation allowance", "supplemental allowance", "end-of-year allowance", etc. and can cover official expenses, for example, travel, mail, staff, office supplies etc.

If allowances vary across members, please provide an average per member, not including 'attendance allowances' (see next question).

Select "not applicable" if allowances do not apply.

	Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
Basic allowances	Total: 18,285,605 Currency: JPY (1)12,000,000 (2)6,285,605(2020) <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Total: 18,285,605 Currency: JPY (1)12,000,000 (2)6,285,605(2020) <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
<i>Please provide the names of these basic allowances</i>	(1) Expenses for mail, phone and other communication, transport, and lodging (2) End-of-term allowance	(1) Expenses for mail, phone and other communication, transport, and lodging (2) End-of-term allowance

16. If there is an 'Attendance Allowance', what is the amount and periodicity?

Select "not applicable" if an attendance allowance does not apply.

	Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
Attendance allowance	Total: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable Paid Per: <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> Month <input type="checkbox"/> Year <input type="checkbox"/> Session <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):	Total: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable Paid Per: <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> Month <input type="checkbox"/> Year <input type="checkbox"/> Session <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

18. Are salaries and allowances subject to income tax (or equivalent)?

	Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
Salaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Allowances	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (1) Expenses for mail, phone and other communication, transport, and lodging – No (2) End-of-term allowance – Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (1) Expenses for mail, phone and other communication, transport, and lodging – No (2) End-of-term allowance – Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable

19. Can MPs have other remunerated employment outside of parliament?

Yes No

Remunerated employment in state or local government bodies is in principle prohibited. The Standards of Conduct provide a certain limitation on President/Speaker, Vice-Speaker/Vice-President, and House chairpersons regarding their receipt of remunerations for director posts in enterprises or organizations.

20. If yes, are MPs required to declare income from other employment to parliament?

Yes No Not applicable

21. Does the parliament provide the following to parliamentarians?

	Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber

Personal staff to work directly for the parliamentarian³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Salary of Secretaries to MPs is provided. (3 persons at most)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Salary of Secretaries to MPs is provided. (3 persons at most)
Office at parliament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Constituency office⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Apartment for MPs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Apartment for MPs)
Other cash or in-kind allowances for constituency work (e.g., travel, overnight stay, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If yes, please provide a list of the other allowances provided for constituency work</i>	Free pass on the Japanese Railways (JR) and/or round-trip air tickets to constituency	Free pass on the Japanese Railways (JR) and/or round-trip air tickets to constituency

22. Are additional salaries and allowances provided for leadership positions?*If yes, please specify the amount.*

	Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber	Upper chamber
Speaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Amount: Annual Salary (2020) – Speaker/President 22,568,000 JPY Additional allowance – 6,000 JPY per day during the session to Speaker/President End-of-term allowance (2020) – 10,540,775 JPY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Amount: Annual Salary (2020) – Speaker/President 22,568,000 JPY Additional allowance – 6,000 JPY per day during the session to Speaker/President End-of-term allowance (2020) – 10,540,775 JPY
Committee Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Amount:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Amount:

³ Personal staff working directly for a parliamentarian is different from parliamentary staff working for the secretariat of Parliament.

⁴ Certain countries provide for an office at constituency if it's different from a seat of parliament, which is often in the capital. The office at constituency is applicable mainly to the countries using the Plurality/Majority system of elections.

	Salaries – No Additional Allowances – 6,000 JPY per day during the session to committee chairs	Salaries – No Additional Allowances – 6,000 JPY per day during the session to committee chairs
<i>Please specify if any other leadership positions receive different salaries or allowances and the amounts (e.g., Deputy-Speaker, Heads of parliamentary groups etc.)</i>	Vice-Speaker: Annual Salary (2020) – 16,473,600 JPY Additional allowance – 6,000 JPY per day during the session End-of-term allowance (2020) –7,694,280 JPY	Vice-President: Annual Salary (2020) – 16,473,600 JPY Additional allowance – 6,000 JPY per day during the session End-of-term allowance (2020) –7,694,280 JPY

23. Does parliament determine the amount of salaries and allowances?

- a. **Salary** Yes No

***if yes**, which body (or bodies) in parliament determine the amount and **if no**, which institution determines the amount?*

The number of salaries is determined by law.

- b. **Allowances** Yes No

***if yes**, which body (or bodies) in parliament determine the amount and **if no**, which institution determines the amount?*

The amount of allowances is determined by law.

24. Is the parliamentary salary determined in reference to another salary scale?

- Yes No

if yes, which one(s)?

- Civil service salary scale
 Ministerial salary
 Minimum wage
 Other (please specify):

25. Does the parliamentary website include details of the following?

- a. **Salary:** Yes No
- b. **Allowance available to members:** Yes No
- c. **Amount of allowances received by each member:** Yes No

if yes, please provide relevant links:

Salary: https://www.sangiin.go.jp/japanese/goiken_gositumon/faq/a08.html#A08

Notes

Parline questionnaire: Data on the annual activities of parliament

*Please provide any supporting information that is relevant to the answers provided.
Where appropriate, please specify the number of the question to which the note applies.*
Questions 6, 7, 8 and 11 are answered based on the financial year, running from 1 April to 31 March.