

RAJYA SABHA

Parliamentary Bulletin

PART II

Nos.65096 -65134]

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

No. 65096

Legislative Section

Commencement of the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha

Members are informed that the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha will commence on Friday, the 31st January, 2025.

No. 65097

Legislative Section

Issuance of Summons through Members' Portal

Members are informed that Summons have been issued through Members' Portal only.

No. 65098

Legislative Section

President's Address to Members of both Houses of Parliament

The President will address both Houses of Parliament assembled together at 11.00 A.M. on Friday, the 31st January, 2025 in the Lok Sabha Chamber, Parliament House, New Delhi.

No. 65099

Legislative Section

Sitting of the Rajya Sabha on the 31st January, 2025

There will be a separate sitting of the Rajya Sabha for the transaction of Government Business, half an hour after the conclusion of the President's Address on the 31st January, 2025.

No. 65100

Legislative Section

Time of Sittings of the Rajya Sabha during the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh

Session

Unless otherwise notified, the time of sittings of the Rajya Sabha during the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session will be from 11.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. and 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.

No. 65101

Legislative Section

Allotment of days for the transaction of business during the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha

As at present arranged, sittings of the Rajya Sabha for the transaction of business during the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session have been fixed provisionally for:-

January - 31.

February - 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13.

March - 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28.

April - 1, 2, 3 and 4.

A provisional Calendar of sittings for the Session has been circulated to Members separately through Members' Portal.

No. 65102

Legislative Section

Private Members' Business during the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session

The following days have been allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Business during the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha:-

Bills: Friday, the 7th February; Friday, the 21st March; Friday, the 4th April, 2025.

Resolutions: Thursday, the 13th March; Friday, the 28th March, 2025.

No. 65103

Legislative Section

Draw of lot of Private Members' Bills and inclusion of Private Members' Bills in the List of Business for a particular day

Members are informed that for determining the priority of pending Private

Members' Bills, there shall be a draw of lot for the days allotted for Private Members' Bills in the Session in respect of names of Member- in-Charge of Bills. In the said draw of lot, ten names shall be drawn and the priority obtained therein shall be valid for the entire Session. Out of the ten names drawn in the draw of lot, Bills of only five Members (excluding part discussed Bill, if any) in order of their priority shall be included at a time in the List of Business for consideration on the day allotted for Private Members' Bills. A Member, who has more than one Bill pending against his name, shall be eligible to select one of his Bills, for consideration.

The draw of lot will be held in Secretary-General's Room (Room No. RS-08) in the Parliament House at 11.00 A.M. Friday, the 24th January, 2025.

No. 65104

Legislative Section

Private Members' Resolutions

Members who wish to move Resolutions on the day allotted for Private Members' Resolutions may give a notice to that effect **at least two days before the date of draw of lot** in respect of Private Members' Resolutions. The names of all Members from whom such notices are received shall be considered for draw of lot and those Members who secure the first five places therein shall be eligible to give notice of one Resolution each within ten days of the draw of lot which, subject to admissibility under the Rules, will be put down in the List of Business in that order.

The date of draw of lot is given below:-

Day(s) allotted	Date(s) of draw of lot
Thursday, the 13 th March, 2025	21 st February, 2025 (11.00 A.M.)
Friday, the 28 th March, 2025	7 th March, 2025 (11.00 A.M.)

The draw of lot will be held in Secretary-General's Room (Room No. RS-08) in the Parliament House.

No. 65105

Legislative Section

Sitting of the Rajya Sabha on the 1st February, 2025 and Question Hour thereof

Since the Union Budget for 2025-2026 is being presented to the Lok Sabha at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday, the 1st February, 2025, there will be no Question Hour on that day in the Rajya Sabha. The sitting of the Rajya Sabha will accordingly commence after the conclusion of the presentation of the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha on Saturday, the 1st February, 2025.

No. 65106

Legislative Section

Procedure for giving notices

(a) Direction by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha (Issued vide P.B. Part-II, para no. 64263 dated 12/06/2024) -

“56. Under Rule 223 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), submission of **physical notices are discontinued forthwith**. Hence, Members can submit all notices required by the rules including Short Notice Question, Half An Hour Discussion and Notice for Question to Private Member and also notices for raising matters with the permission of the Chair (Zero Hour submission) **through the Digital Sansad Portal only.**”

(b) The principal notices required by the Rules and the period of notices are:-

- (i) of Question - 15 clear days;
- (ii) of Resolutions - within 10 days of the draw of lot;
- (iii) of Amendments to Resolutions and Motions - one day;
- (iv) of Motion for leave to introduce Bills - one Month;
- (v) of Amendments to Bills - one day; and
- (vi) of Special Mentions - upto 5.00 P.M. on the previous day.

No. 65107

Legislative Section

Online filing of Notices through "Digital Sansad Portal"

Members are informed that the facility of online submission of notices is available on **Digital Sansad portal**. Using this portal, Members may submit notices for various parliamentary devices in electronic form. **Members are requested to submit the notices required by the Rules only through the Digital Sansad portal.**

2. For the secured access to the **Digital Sansad Portal**, OTP authentication method is being used along with User name/Password. OTP will be sent to the Members on their registered mobile number as well on registered email id.

3. For submitting the Notices through the **Digital Sansad Portal**, the Portal can be accessed by clicking the following link:-

URL <https://sansad.in/poi>, or <https://sansad.in/rs>

4. Notices submitted electronically after office hours will be deemed to have been received at 09.00 A.M. on the next working day.

5. Members may kindly note.

No. 65108

Legislative Section

Steps for Submission of e-Notices through Digital Sansad Portal

For submitting the e-Notices, Members are requested to follow the following steps:

(A). Login Process- If the user has already logged in Digital Sansad portal before

Step 1:

Enter the URL <https://sansad.in/poi>, or <https://sansad.in/rs> to land on the Digital Sansad portal.

Step 2:

Click on the Login button present on top right corner of the Parliament of India (POI) landing page.

Step 3:

On clicking the Login button, please enter the requested details like: Email- Id (**Registered Sansad Id**), Password, Captcha Code and click on “Continue button”.

Step 4:

If all the details entered in the previous steps are correct, an OTP will be triggered on the registered mobile number as well on registered email id.

Step 5:

On entering the correct OTP received on the registered mobile number /email id and clicking on “Verify & Proceed”, user will successfully land on the Member portal home page.

(B). Login Process- Member whose Sansad Id exists and is logging into Digital Sansad portal for the first time

Step 1:

Enter the URL <https://sansad.in/poi> or <https://sansad.in/rs> to land on the Digital Sansad portal.

Step 2:

Click on the Login button present on top right corner of the Parliament of India (POI) landing page.

Step 3:

Please enter the requested details like: Email- Id (**Registered Sansad Id**), Password (old), Captcha Code and click on “Continue button”.

Step 4:

If all the details entered in the previous steps are correct, an OTP will be triggered on the registered mobile number as well on registered email id of the user.

Step 5:

On entering the correct OTP received on the registered mobile number / email id and clicking on “Continue”, it will successfully land on “Set Password screen”.

Step 6:

Please set the password according to the password policy which is shared on the screen and click on “Continue button”.

Step 7:

Once the password is set successfully, it will land on the landing page of Parliament of India with a message “Password updated successfully, please login”. Please click on the login button present on the login Page to continue.

(C). Login Process- In case the Sansad Id is newly created by NIC (First time login)

Step 1:

Enter the URL <https://sansad.in/poi> or <https://sansad.in/rs> to land on the Digital Sansad portal.

Step 2:

Click on the Login button present on top right corner of the Parliament of India (POI) landing page.

Step 3:

On clicking the Login button, the detailed page will open. Click on First time

login.

Step 4:

Please enter the requested details like: Email- Id (**Registered Sansad Id**) and Captcha Code (as displayed) and click on “Continue button”.

Step 5:

If all the details entered in the previous steps are correct, an OTP will be triggered on the registered mobile number as well on registered email id.

Step 6:

On entering the correct OTP received on the registered mobile number / email id and clicking on “Verify & Proceed”, it will successfully land on “Set Password screen”.

Step 7:

Please set the password according to the password policy which is shared on the screen and click on “continue button”.

Step 8:

Once the password is set successfully, it will land on the landing page of Parliament of India with a message “Password updated successfully, please login”.

Note: In case, if the member does not have Sansad Email Id, please connect with NIC for the same.

Step 9:

After successful login, it will land on the Member’s portal home page. For submitting the e-Notice, please click e-Notice menu in the left panel. It will ask for OTP. Enter the OTP received on the registered mobile number / email id. After OTP verification, it will automatically move to the e-Notice module. From there e-Notices can be submitted.

No. 65109

Legislative Section

Procedure and practice regarding Calling Attention, Matters of Urgent Public Importance during Zero Hour and Mentioning Matters of Public Importance (Special Mentions) in the House

Members are informed of the following procedure and practice regarding Calling Attention, Matters of Urgent Public Importance during Zero Hour and Special Mentions:-

I. Calling Attention

(i) All Calling Attention Notices received for a day during a week in which that day falls will be kept alive during the whole of that week and placed before the Chairman for his consideration from day-to-day along with notices received up to 10.30 A.M. on the day on which the notices are put up to him.

(ii) On the last day of the week, the notices received up to 10.30 A.M. on that day will be considered and all the notices, which are not selected will be deemed to have lapsed and no intimation about this will be given to the Members.

(iii) Notices received after 10.30 A.M. on the last day of the week will be deemed to have been received for the day on which the next sitting of the House is to be held and these will be valid for the following week.

(iv) Not more than two notices of Calling Attention may be given by a Member for one sitting.

(v) A Member who initiates a Calling Attention should not take more than 7 minutes and other Members who are called by the Chairman should not take more than 5 minutes each and should restrict themselves strictly to seeking clarifications on the Calling Attention.

(vi) Where a Calling Attention Notice stands in the names of a number of Members, in choosing Members who desire to seek clarifications, the first principle will be party/group. After exhausting the parties/groups, whose Members have given the notice, by calling one Member from each party/group, the Chairman may call Members belonging to parties/ groups not in the list.

(vii) A Member whose Calling Attention Notice has not been selected during a week (i.e., starting from Monday to Friday), may renew the same for subsequent week(s). In such a case, the date and priority of notice will be the date and time at which the renewal notice is received in the Secretariat from the Member concerned and no consideration will be given to the previously lapsed notice of Calling Attention on the same subject.

II. Matters of Urgent Public Importance during Zero Hour.

Attention of Members is invited to the following revised procedure for raising Matters of Urgent Public Importance during Zero Hour: –

(i) A Member who wishes to raise a matter of urgent public importance on a particular day, should give notice of his or her intention to the Chairman after 12 Noon till 05.00 P.M. on the previous day and should indicate in the notice, a synopsis of the matter that he or she wishes to raise, justifying therein its urgency and importance.

(ii) Only such matters as have arisen very recently might be permitted to be

raised.

(iii) Matter proposed to be raised should not contain any statement making allegations against a person who is not available to defend himself. However, if any notice involves allegation against a Member/Minister, the Member concerned should send a copy of his/her notice to the Member/Minister against whom the allegation is being made, besides giving it to the Chairman.

(iv) The matter proposed to be raised should be under the jurisdiction of the Government of India so that it would be easier for the Minister concerned to respond to it, in case she/he desires to do so;

(v) Notices shall not relate to matters within the jurisdiction of Chairman;

(vi) A ballot of notices of Matters of Urgent Public Importance during Zero Hour received up to 05.00 p.m. on the previous day on which matter is sought to be raised, will be held at 05.30 p.m. on that day in Secretary-General's Room (Room No. RS-08) in the Parliament House.

(vii) Fifteen notices selected through the ballot will be serially numbered as per their priority in the draw of lot and will be allowed to be raised in a day subject to the approval of the Hon'ble Chairman. However, 4 to 5 notices over and above these fifteen matters may be allowed to be raised on the basis of their importance at the discretion of the Hon'ble Chairman. (viii) Out of the notices selected through the ballot, the order in which the matters will be raised in the House shall be the prerogative of the Hon'ble Chairman.

(ix) Members who have availed an opportunity to make submission through Zero Hour during a week will not be considered again for ballot of notices in that week.

(x) An issue which, in the discretion of the Hon'ble Chairman, requires structured discussion shall not be considered for raising it during Zero Hour.

(xi) The matters may be raised immediately after the laying of papers and conclusion of other business of formal nature at 11.00 A.M.

(xii) While making the submission, the concerned Member would be given three minutes to raise the matter in brief. The Chair may ring the bell on the completion of two minutes to indicate to the Member that he or she has only one minute left for completing the submission.

(xiii) The time limit of three minutes for raising a matter is to be strictly complied with.

(xiv) For raising matters during Zero Hour, Members shall give fresh notice every day. The Notices not selected through ballot/not permitted by the Chairman for a given day/permitted but could not be raised shall be treated as lapsed on the same

day. If the Member concerned desires to raise the same matter on the following day or any other day, he may give a fresh notice for the same.

(xv) Not more than one notice of matter to be raised during Zero Hour shall be permitted on one subject in a session.

(xvi) Only the Member who gave notice for raising a matter during Zero Hour, within the prescribed time shall be permitted to raise the matter in the House. No Member shall give notice on behalf of any other Member.

(xvii) Matters to be raised during Zero Hour may not be made on a day on which any other urgent business is scheduled after the laying of papers on the Table and other business of formal nature.

III. Mentioning Matters of Public Importance in the House (Special Mentions)

(i) A Member who desires to seek permission of the Chairman for mentioning a matter of public importance in the House should give notice thereof **electronically not later than 05.00 P.M.** on the day preceding the day on which he proposes to mention the matter in the House.

(ii) **The Notice should be accompanied by a text of the matter to be mentioned not exceeding 250 words.**

(iii) A Member should not give more than two such notices for one sitting.

(iv) Notices received up to 05.00 P.M. the preceding day only will be placed before the Chairman for his consideration for the day on which the next sitting of the House is to be held. Notices received after that will be deemed to have been received for the subsequent sitting of the House.

(v) The Chairman in his discretion may select seven such matters depending upon their urgency and importance.

(vi) A Member to whom permission is given by the Chairman for mentioning a particular matter in the House on that day will be informed of it in the House.

(vii) **Only the Member to whom permission has been given may mention the matter in the House by reading the text as approved by the Chairman.**

(viii) A Member, to whom permission has not been granted to mention a matter given notice of by him, will not be allowed to mention it in the House.

(ix) Ordinarily, not more than one Special Mention may be permitted on one subject. In case notices are received from more than one Member on the same subject at the same time and for the same day, the Chairman in his discretion will decide which member is to be permitted to make the Special Mention irrespective of the order in which the notice is submitted. The others may simply mention that they also associate with it and no further speeches will be allowed.

(x) A Member should not take more than three minutes to make a Special Mention.

(xi) A Member may make only one Special Mention during a week.

No. 65110

Legislative Section

Display of result of ballot regarding Matters of Urgent Public Importance during Zero Hour

Members are informed that the notices for matters to be raised during Zero Hour received for a given day of the Session on which the Members desire to raise their matters in the House shall be balloted at 05.30 p.m. on the previous day in the Secretary-General's Room (Room No. RS-08) in the Parliament House. The result of ballot shall be displayed in Notice Office, Parliament House for information of Members. The result of the ballot shall also be displayed under the Latest>>Updates column of Digital Sansad portal (<https://sansad.in/rs>) after the ballot process is over.

No. 65111

Legislative Section

Notice of Short Duration Discussion under Rule 176

Attention of Members is invited to Rule 176 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha which reads as under:-

“176. Any member desirous of raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance may give notice in writing to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the matter to be raised:

Provided that the notice shall be accompanied by an explanatory note stating reasons for raising discussion on the matter in question:

Provided further that the notice shall be supported by the signatures of at least two other members.”

No. 65112

Legislative Section

Treatment of notices given by Members by FAX

Members are informed that as per established practice, notices given or transmitted by them by FAX are not admissible and, therefore, shall not be entertained in the Secretariat.

Members are requested to kindly note and cooperate.

No. 65113

Questions Branch

Relaxation in notice period for giving notices of Questions

Members are informed that the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha has relaxed the notice period for giving notices of Questions under Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), for the first two sittings of the 267th Session, i.e., 3rd and 4th February, 2025. Accordingly, the last date for receiving Notices of Questions for the said sittings is 3.00 P.M. on 20th January, 2025. Ballots for determining the inter se priority of Members for including their Questions in the Lists of Questions for Answers on 3rd and 4th February, 2025 will be held at 5.00 P.M. on Monday, 20th January, 2025.

No. 65114

Questions Branch

Allotment of days for answering questions and the last date of receiving Notices pertaining to various Ministries during the Two Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha during January-April, 2025.

Unless otherwise notified, the days as indicated below have been allotted for answering questions by the Ministers during the **Two Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Session** of the Rajya Sabha during **January-April, 2025**.

Date of Sitting	Last Date of receiving Notices/Date of Ballot	Allotment of Ministries/Departments	Group
03-02-2025 10-02-2025 10-03-2025 17-03-2025 24-03-2025	20-01-2025 24-01-2025 21-02-2025 28-02-2025 07-03-2025	Civil Aviation; Coal; Defence; Housing and Urban Affairs; Jal Shakti; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Mines; Minority Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Planning; Power; Statistics and Programme Implementation.	I (Monday)
04-02-2025 11-02-2025 11-03-2025 18-03-2025 25-03-2025 01-04-2025	20-01-2025 24-01-2025 21-02-2025 28-02-2025 07-03-2025 13-03-2025	AYUSH; Chemical and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Corporate Affairs; Finance; Health and Family Welfare; New and Renewable Energy; Ports, Shipping and Waterways.	II (Tuesday)

Date of Sitting	Last Date of receiving Notices/Date of Ballot	Allotment of Ministries/Departments	Group
12-03-2025 19-03-2025 26-03-2025 02-04-2025	24-02-2025 03-03-2025 10-03-2025 17-03-2025	Cooperation; Education; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Home Affairs; Road Transport and Highways; Panchayati Raj; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Social Justice and Empowerment; Tribal Affairs; Women and Child Development.	III (Wednesday)
06-02-2025 13-02-2025 13-03-2025 20-03-2025 27-03-2025 03-04-2025	21-01-2025 28-01-2025 25-02-2025 04-03-2025 11-03-2025 18-03-2025	Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Communications; Culture; Development of North Eastern Region; Earth Sciences; Environment, Forest & Climate Change; External Affairs; Law and Justice; Labour & Employment; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Science and Technology; Space; Tourism; Youth Affairs and Sports.	IV (Thursday)
07-02-2025 21-03-2025 28-03-2025 04-04-2025	22-01-2025 05-03-2025 12-03-2025 19-03-2025	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Commerce and Industry; Electronics and Information Technology; Food Processing Industries; Heavy Industries; Information and Broadcasting; Railways; Rural Development; Steel; Textiles.	V (Friday)

No. 65115

Questions Branch

Notice period for Questions

1. Under Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), unless the Chairman otherwise directs, not less than fifteen clear days notice of a question shall be given. In calculating this period, both the dates on which the notice is received and on which an answer is desired should be excluded.
2. Under Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), a question relating to a matter of public importance, if it is of an urgent character, may be asked with notice shorter than fifteen clear days (termed as Short Notice Question).

No. 65116

Questions Branch

Submission of Notices of Questions

The Direction 2(A) of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, on submission of Notices of Questions which was notified vide Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II number 61971 dated 16th June, 2022 is reproduced below:-

‘Under Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), submission of physical Notices of Questions are discontinued forthwith. Hence, Members can submit the Notices of Questions through the e-Notices’ Portal only’.

Further the Direction 56 of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on submission of Notices which was notified vide Parliamentary Bulletin Part- II number 64263 dated 12th June, 2024 is reproduced below:-

‘Under Rule 223 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), submission of physical notices are discontinued forthwith. Hence, Members can submit all notices required by the rules

including Short Notices Question, Half An Hour Discussion and Notice for Question to Private Member and also notices for raising matters with the permission of the Chair (Zero Hour Submission) through the Digital Sansad Portal only'

Accordingly, the practice being followed hitherto for the submission of physical notices of Questions, Short Notices Question, Notices for Half An Hour Discussion and Notices for Question to Private Member has been discontinued. Hence, Members can now submit all the Notices through e- Notices' Portal only.

No. 65117

Questions Branch

Submission of Notices of Questions through e-Notices' Portal

For submitting the Notices of Questions through the e-Notices' Portal, the Portal can be accessed through the Digital Sansad website (<http://sansad.in/rs>). The step-wise procedure to submit Notices through Digital Sansad website is issued separately.

Accessing the e-Notices' Portal is via secured OTP authentication method along with the User name/Password. The secured OTP will be sent to the Members on their registered mobile number and email ID.

No. 65118

Questions Branch

Guidelines for submitting notices of Questions

The e-Notices' Portal has the following fields:-

- i. Selection of notice type (Starred or Unstarred).
- ii. Selection of the name of the Ministry.
- iii. Selection of the date of sitting.
- iv. Selection of the order of preference (separate preference for Starred and Unstarred).
- v. Selection of the language of the Text (Hindi or English)
- vi. Title/subject of the Question
- vii. Text of the Question

All the fields are **required** fields, hence a Member has to select the options against each field to submit the notice of Questions.

2. As per Rule 47(2)(vii) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), the right to ask a question is governed by the condition that it should not exceed 100 words. Hence, Members while submitting

the notices of Questions on the e-Notice's portal can see the word count of their text. If the text of the Question exceeds 100 words at the stage of submission, the portal would remind the Members of the same and the Members will have the option to modify the text. However, Members can submit the notice of Question through e-Notices' Portal even if the text of Question exceeds 100 words limit.

3. Notices of questions relating to legislation should be addressed to the Minister responsible for the subject-matter of the legislation in question and not the Minister of Law and Justice.

4. It has been observed that at times the notices of Questions are not addressed to the appropriate Ministry/Department. In case a notice of question is wrongly addressed to a Minister not responsible for the subject-matter of the question, it will be transferred for answer by the appropriate Minister at the instance of the Ministry originally addressed. However, after a question is admitted and uploaded on the website/printed, no transfer from one Ministry to another shall take place.

5. As regards addressing the notices of questions to the appropriate Ministry/ Department, **Members are informed that a Subject Pamphlet titled 'Classification of Subjects for various Ministries for Answering Questions in Rajya Sabha' is available on e-Notices' portal as well as on Digital Sansad website: <https://sansad.in/rs> (Business → Questions → Click on Ministry-wise Subjects).** The subject pamphlet is updated before the commencement of each Session. It contains the position with regard to the subjects with which various Ministries/Departments are concerned. Members are requested to kindly make use of this Pamphlet, whenever required.

6. Notices of questions containing references to answers to previous questions given in the Rajya Sabha should be made self-contained by quoting the question number and by giving briefly the purport of the previous question and the date when the question was answered.

No. 65119

Questions Branch

Limit on Notices of Questions for a sitting

The Direction 16A(i) of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on limit of notices of Questions to be submitted for any one day of the sitting, notified vide Parliamentary Bulletin-II no. 61971 dt. 16th June, 2022 is reproduced below:-

“Under Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha),

- i. Members can give not more than SEVEN notices of Questions, both Oral (Starred) and Written (Unstarred) combined, for any one day of sitting.

X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X

Accordingly, a Member cannot submit more than 7 Notices of Questions on the portal, both Oral (Starred) and Written (Unstarred) combined, for any one day of sitting. Once 7 Notices have been given for any one day of sitting that particular date will freeze on the e-Notices' Portal and Member will not be able to submit any further Notice for that day.

No. 65120

Questions Branch

Procedure regarding Ballots of Questions

Members are informed that for determining the inter se priority of Members for including their questions in the lists of questions for Oral and Written answer for a date, two separate computerised Ballots of Members who have given the notices, will be held at 5:00 PM in the Office of Secretary-General, Room No. RS-8, Ground Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi on every working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Notices received up to 3.00 p.m. on the last date of receiving notices for any answer day shall be considered for the ballot.

2. The Direction 3A of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for determining inter-se priority of Members notified vide Parliamentary Bulletin-II no. 61971 dt. 16th June, 2022 is reproduced below:-

‘Under Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), there shall be a computerised draw of lots for determining the inter-se priority of Members for drawing up of the Oral (Starred) List, as well as of Written (Unstarred) List.’

Under Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), Ballot for determining name of Members whose Notices of questions are to be included in the list of **15 Questions for Oral answer, will now be held through a computerised draw of lots.** A separate computerized Ballot will also be held for Unstarred questions, indicating the ballot priority of Members for including their questions for written answers for a list of 160 questions. Members desirous of witnessing the ballots are requested to make it convenient to be present during the ballot process on the day(s) mentioned in the chart being circulated to the Members and at time and venue mentioned therein.

The result of ballot for the starred questions will be placed on the Digital Sansad Website (<http://sansad.in/rs>) and in the Notice Office for information of the Members. Result of ballot for Unstarred Questions will be placed on the website only, for the information of Members.

ADMISSIBILITY OF NOTICES OF QUESTIONS

A - Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)

Notices of questions should be so worded as to comply with the conditions of admissibility of questions enumerated in rules 47 and 48 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).

Rule 47: Conditions of admissibility of Questions

1. Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (2) of the rule, a question may be asked for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of public importance within the special cognizance of the Minister to whom it is addressed.

2. The right to ask a question is governed by the following conditions:

- i. it shall be pointed, specific and confined to one issue only;
- ii. it shall not bring in any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible;
- iii. if it contains a statement, the Member shall make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement;
- iv. it shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements;
- v. it shall not ask for an expression of opinion or the solution of an abstract legal question or of a hypothetical proposition;
- vi. it shall not ask as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity;
- vii. it shall not exceed 100 words;
- viii. it shall not relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Government of India;
- ix. it shall not ordinarily ask for information on matters which are under the consideration of a Parliamentary Committee;
- x. it shall not ask about proceedings in a Parliamentary Committee which have not been placed before the Council by a report from the Committee;
- xi. it shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion;
- xii. it shall not make or imply a charge of a personal character;
- xiii. it shall not raise questions of policy too large to be dealt within the limits of an answer to a question;
- xiv. it shall not repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused;

- xv. it shall not ask for information on trivial matters;
- xvi. it shall not ordinarily seek information on matters of past history;
- xvii. it shall not require information set forth in accessible documents or in ordinary works of reference;
- xviii. it shall not raise matters under the control of bodies or persons not primarily responsible to the Government of India;
- xix. it shall not ask for information on a matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India;
- xx. it shall not relate to a matter with which a Minister is not officially connected;
- xxi. it shall not refer discourteously to a friendly foreign country; and
- xxii. it shall not seek information about matters which are in their nature secret.

Rule 48: Questions on matters of correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of a State

In matters, which are or have been the subject of correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of a State, no question shall be asked except as to matters of fact and the answer shall be confined to a statement of fact.

B - Directions by the Chairman/Conventions

1. Notices of questions on a subject on which a Minister proposes to make a statement during the current session are normally kept pending for a decision till the statement is made. Admissibility or otherwise of such questions is decided after the statement is made.
2. Questions relating to day-to-day administration in respect of public undertakings/autonomous bodies/statutory corporations are not admitted for answer unless a matter of policy or public interest is involved.
3. Questions in respect of working of the statutory corporations and limited companies in which Government has financial or controlling interest are generally not admitted and information in this regard may be obtained by the Members directly from the corporations or the companies concerned.
4. Questions which relate to matters of day-to-day administration of Government employees like their service conditions, postings, transfers, TA/DA, etc. or questions which tend to further the interest of an individual or a few individuals or private companies are not admissible.
5. Notices of questions seeking information on matters of past history should be restricted to a period ordinarily not exceeding three years.

While framing the questions, Members are requested to keep **in view** the aforesaid **conditions of admissibility and directions/conventions** to avoid disallowance of questions.

No. 65122

*Questions Branch***Admissibility of Questions based on News Items**

The subject of admissibility of questions based on news reports was considered by the General Purposes Committee of Rajya Sabha in its meeting held on the 24th January, 2003. In the meeting, the Committee endorsed the following observation made by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 1987:

“I find that a number of questions are put saying that it has appeared in a paper, whether the Government’s attention has been drawn. Instead of the newspapers giving publicity to politicians, politicians are giving publicity to the newspapers. You must take the substance of the matter and then ask whether it is a fact or not. You should not say whether a report has appeared in some paper and what it is. You may note it for future reference. If some such question comes hereafter, I will not allow it.”

2. Keeping in view the provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Council of States (Rajya Sabha), the Committee decided that while questions that are self-contained and seek substantive information by referring to the newspaper reports may be allowed, asking of questions merely by referring to news reports and seeking Government’s reaction or action taken by the Government on the news item may be disallowed.

No. 65123

*Questions Branch***Identical notices of questions addressed to different Ministries or repetition thereof for successive dates**

At times, identical notices of questions are addressed to different Ministries/ Departments, simultaneously. Further, there have been instances where identical notices of questions are repeated on the successive dates in the same or the following Session.

2. It is in the interest of Members that in cases where more than one Ministry/Department is concerned with a subject and if the Member desires reaction/information from a particular Ministry/Department only, the question may be addressed to that Ministry/Department specifically rather than giving identical notices to different Ministries. **Members are also requested not to repeat identical notices of questions which have already been answered in response to**

either their notices or some other Member's notices for earlier dates.

No. 65124

Questions Branch

Limit on number of questions to be included in the Lists of Questions

Not more than one question of a Member will be placed on the list of questions for oral answer on a particular day. **Notices** of Questions for oral answers in excess of one **will be considered for** list of questions for written answer.

2. Each Question in the Starred list would appear in the name of only one Member on the basis of the position secured by the Member in the computerised draw of lots. Identical Notices of Questions asking for similar information which are clubbed with similar Notice shall, however, be de-clubbed in case the Notice is included in the Starred list. Similar procedure shall be followed in respect of Short Notice Question.

3. The Direction 16A(ii) of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, on number of Questions to be placed in the list by any one Member both oral and written combined, and notified vide Parliamentary Bulletin-II no. 61971 dt. 16th June, 2022 is reproduced below:-

Under Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha),

X X X X X

i. However, not more than FIVE Questions, both Oral (Starred) and Written (Unstarred) combined, by one Member shall be placed on the lists of Questions for any one day.

X X X X X

4. However, notices of questions admitted in excess of five in the name of a Member for any day may be put down in the list of questions on a subsequent day allotted to the group of Ministries, subject to the provisions of rules 43(1) and 51A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and in accordance with Chairman's directions.

No. 65125

Questions Branch

Total number of Questions in the lists of Questions

The total number of questions to be included in the lists of questions for oral and written answers for any one day shall be limited to 175, including 15 questions for

oral answers, questions postponed from one list of questions to another for written answers and fifteen questions pertaining to the States under the President's Rule.

1. Not more than 15 questions for oral answers and 160 questions for written answers shall be placed on the lists of questions for any one day.

No. 65126

Questions Branch

Lapsed Notices of Questions

The Direction 16A(iii) of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on lapsed notices of Question notified vide Parliamentary Bulletin no. 61971 dt. 16th June, 2022 is reproduced below:-

“Under Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha),

X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X

- i. **Notices of Questions of Members, which could not be put down in the list of Questions on any sitting shall lapse on the prorogation of the Session and will be returned to Members electronically.”**
1. The lapsed Notices of Questions returned electronically will be available on the Members' Portal.

No. 65127

Questions Branch

Discontinuation of circulation of printed lists of Questions

Members are informed that to encourage digital platform along with a view to minimize the use of paper, circulation of printed lists of Questions to Members has been discontinued. Instead, the soft copy of Question Lists will be published on the Digital Sansad website (<https://sansad.in/rs>). However, a few printed copies of Question Lists will be kept in the Lobby Office for ready reference and made available to Members on their request. The lists of Starred and Unstarred Questions will also be available immediately after publishing the lists on the Rajya Sabha website and on the Members' Portal under Today's Circulation.

No. 65128

Questions Branch

Discontinuation of circulation of hard copies of answers

Members are informed that circulation of **sets of answers** (in English and Hindi) to Starred and Unstarred Questions has been discontinued from 260th Session onwards. The answers to Starred Question will be available to the Members on the Members' Portal and Multi Media Devices (MMDs) installed in the House at 10.00 A.M. on the answer day in order to facilitate them to prepare Supplementaries. Members are requested to use the electronic devices with them and MMDs to access the answers. The same set of answers will be published and made available for download from Digital Sansad website (<https://sansad.in/rs>) once the answers have been laid on the Table of the House.

No. 65129

Questions Branch

Errata to the lists of Questions

Members are informed that lists of admitted questions for a day are published on the Rajya Sabha website at least five days in advance of the date(s) on which those are due for answer. Any case of patent error in the question lists, such as wrong spelling of proper names or wrong clubbing of names, etc., is corrected by the Secretariat by issuing necessary errata in the matter.

1. Members are, therefore, requested that the errors, if any, may kindly be brought to the notice of the Secretariat, immediately after the lists have been published on the website, so as to enable the Secretariat to take necessary action on the matter.

No. 65130

Questions Branch

Confidentiality of answers to questions

The content of every statement to be made in response to a question should be considered as strictly confidential and must not be released for publication until the question for oral answer to which it relates is actually asked and answered in the House. In case the question is not reached for answer, the statement must not be released till the end of Question Hour. As a Minister replying to any question will always be at liberty, till the question is answered, to make any corrections to the answer already sent by him to this Secretariat, the statement should be treated as provisional until the question is actually answered or if it is not reached for answer until the Question Hour is over. The statement should be taken as final only in the form in which it appears ultimately in the answer given to the question.

No. 65131*Questions Branch***Questions of Absent Members**

A question shall be taken up for oral answer during the Question Hour even if the question, on being called, is not put or the Member in whose name it stands, is absent.

No. 65132*Questions Branch***Supplementaries to Questions**

As per the Direction of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha two supplementaries may be allowed to the Member in whose name a Starred Question has been listed. Besides, three more Members may be allowed one supplementary each. In case of a Starred Question which is not put or the Member in whose name it is appearing is absent, three Members may be allowed one supplementary each.

2. Unstarred Questions are not called for oral answer in the Rajya Sabha and no supplementary question can, therefore, be asked in such cases. These, along with its answers are printed in the official debate of the sitting for which they are put down.

No. 65133*Questions Branch***Question at Short Notice (SNQ)**

A question relating to a matter of public importance may be asked with notice period shorter than fifteen clear days if it is of an urgent character.

2. Rule 58(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) provides as follows:

“A question relating to a matter of public importance may be asked with shorter notice than fifteen clear days and if the Chairman is of opinion that the question is of an urgent character he may direct that an enquiry may be made from the Minister concerned if he is in a position to reply and, if so, on what date.”

3. Members are required to indicate in the online notice the reasons why the question is being asked at a short notice. A general statement that the matter is of “wide public importance” or “public interest” would not be adequate for this purpose, as all questions admitted in the ordinary course have to satisfy this basic criterion.

No. 65134*Questions Branch***Notice for Half-an-Hour Discussion (HAD)**

A notice to raise Half-an-hour discussion may be given if it is on a matter of sufficient public importance, which has been the subject of a recent question, oral or written, and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact.

2. Other conditions for giving notice for HAD are contained in Rule 60(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) which read as follows:

“ A member wishing to raise a matter shall give notice in writing to the Secretary-General three days in advance of the day on which the matter is desired to be raised, and shall shortly specify the point or points that he wishes to raise:

Provided that the notice shall be accompanied by an explanatory note stating the reasons for raising discussion on the matter in question:

Provided further that the notices shall be supported by the signatures of at least two other members:

Provided further that the Chairman may with the consent of the Minister concerned waive the requirement concerning the period of notice.”

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General