

LOK SABHA

BULLETIN-PART II

(General Information relating to Parliamentary and other matters)

No(s). 7788 - 7823]

[Friday, January 12, 2024/ Pausha 22, 1945 (Saka)]

No. 7788

Table Office

Commencement of Fifteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha

Members are informed that the Fifteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha will commence on Wednesday, the 31st January, 2024.

No. 7789

Table Office

President's Address to both Houses of Parliament

The President will address both Houses of Parliament assembled together on Wednesday, the 31st January, 2024 at 11 A.M. in the Lok Sabha Chamber, Parliament House of India (New Building of Parliament), New Delhi.

No. 7790

Table Office

Sitting of Lok Sabha on the 31st January, 2024

On the 31st January, 2024, half-an-hour after the conclusion of the President's Address, there will be a separate sitting of Lok Sabha for the transaction of Government Business.

No. 7791

Table Office

Allotment of Days for the transaction of Business during the Fifteenth Session

(1) As at present arranged, sittings of Lok Sabha for transaction of business have been fixed provisionally for :-

January : 31st

February : 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.

(2) A Provisional Calendar of Sittings is being circulated to members separately.

No. 7792

Table Office

Time of Sittings of Lok Sabha

Unless the Speaker otherwise directs, on days when there are sittings, Lok Sabha will sit from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 6 P.M.

No. 7793

Table Office

Advance Publicity of Notices

Attention of members is invited to Rule 334A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha regarding prohibition of advance publicity of notices, which is reproduced below: -

“334A. A notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the Speaker and circulated to members:

Provided that a notice of question shall not be given any publicity until the day on which the question is answered in the House.”

Kind co-operation of members is requested in observing the provisions of this Rule.

Notices required to be given before the commencement of the Sitting

Members are informed that notices which are required to be given before the commencement of the sitting on the day on which the matter is proposed to be raised in the House, will be entertained only from **Wednesday, the 24th January, 2024 (10 A.M.)**. Such notices received prior to the said date will not be admissible.

No. 7795

Parliamentary Notice Office

Procedure for giving Notices in PNO

The general procedure for giving notices is as follows:-

- (a) Every notice required by the Rules shall be given in writing, addressed to the Secretary General, and signed by the Members giving notice and shall be delivered at the Parliamentary Notice Office within the time frame prescribed for that class of notice in the relevant rule. Notices left after the prescribed time or when the Parliamentary Notice Office is closed, shall be treated as given on the next day. This is not intended to preclude Members from sending notices addressed to the Secretary General by post and notices, so received, will be passed on to the Parliamentary Notice Office. Members who wish to submit notices online may also do so.
- (b) Communication(s) of different matters should not be combined in one letter.
- (c) The principal notices required by the Rules and the period of notices are:-
 - (i) of Amendments to Resolutions and Motions - One day; and
 - (ii) of Amendments to Bills - One day.

Kind co-operation of members is solicited.

No. 7796

Parliamentary Notice Office

**Keeping of Notice Boxes at Makar Dwar entrance, Parliament House of India
and Reception Office, Parliament House Complex**

Members are informed that a Notice Box, duly locked, is kept at Makar Dwar entrance of Parliament House of India (new building of Parliament) to enable them to deposit notices before or after office hours. For the convenience of members, who send their notices through their representatives or messengers not holding valid passes for entry into the Parliament House of India, a Notice Box, duly locked, is also kept at the Reception Office, Parliament House Complex, Talkatora Road-II, Sansad Marg side. Notices can be deposited in this Box.

No. 7797

Parliamentary Notice Office

Counter for receiving Notices at Reception Office, Parliament House Complex

Members are informed that a counter of Parliamentary Notice Office has been opened in the Reception Office, Parliament House Complex, Talkatora Road-II, Sansad Marg side which will be functional from the day of issue of Summons to 09.02.2024 to receive various Notices of Members except Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday.

No. 7798

Legislative Branch-II

Private Members' Business during the Fifteenth Session

The following days have been allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Business during the Fifteenth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha:-

Bills . . . Friday, the 2nd February, 2024.

Resolutions . . . Friday, the 9th February, 2024.

Table showing date of ballot of Private Members' Bills

Day allotted for Private Members' Bills	Date of ballot [in Parliamentary Notice Office (PNO), Room No. G 37, Ground Floor, Parliament House of India at 1 P.M. in online mode]
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Friday, the 2nd February, 2024Thursday, the 18th January, 2024**Private Members' Resolutions**

Members who desire to give notices of Resolutions may in the first instance give intimation to that effect. The intimation should be addressed to the Secretary General and given in writing at Parliamentary Notice Office or online through Members' e-portal. The names of members from whom such intimation is received will be balloted and those securing the first three places in the ballot for the day allotted for Private Members' Resolutions will be informed in writing requesting them to give notice of one resolution each within two days after the date of ballot. Those resolutions, if admitted, will be put down in the List of Business. The date of ballot is given below:-

Day allotted for Private Members' Resolutions	Date of ballot [in Parliamentary Notice Office (PNO), Room No. G 37, Ground Floor, Parliament House of India at 1 P.M. in online mode]
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Friday, the 9th February, 2024Wednesday, the 24th January, 2024

**Allotment of Days for Answering Questions during Fifteenth Session of
Seventeenth Lok Sabha**

The Speaker has been pleased to allot the following days for answering questions by Ministers in the rotational order set out below during Fifteenth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha:-

Date of Sitting	Allotment of Ministries and Departments	Group
1	2	3
	February, 2024	
Friday, 2nd February	AYUSH; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Defence; External Affairs; Health and Family Welfare; Law and Justice; Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Women and Child Development.	E
Monday, 5th February	Corporate Affairs; Culture; Development of North Eastern Region; Education; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Finance; Labour and Employment; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Tourism; Tribal Affairs.	A
Tuesday, 6th February	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Cooperation; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Food Processing Industries; Heavy Industries; Home Affairs; Information and Broadcasting; Panchayati Raj; Rural Development; Social Justice and Empowerment; Youth Affairs and Sports.	B
Wednesday, 7th February	Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Coal; Commerce and Industry; Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Earth Sciences; Electronics and Information Technology; Mines; Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Railways; Science and Technology; Space; Steel; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Textiles.	C
Thursday, 8th February	Civil Aviation; Housing and Urban Affairs; Jal Shakti; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Minority Affairs; New and Renewable Energy; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Power; Road Transport and Highways.	D
Friday, 9th February	As shown earlier in the respective Group	E

No. 7802

Question Branch

Tabling of Notices of Questions

A Chart showing dates of holding Ballots and last dates of receipt of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions for each sitting is being circulated through Members' Portal separately.

No. 7803

Question Branch

Holding of Ballots for Notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions

Members are informed that they may submit the notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions for the Fifteenth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha from **Saturday, 13th January, 2024**. In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and also to achieve the objective of paperless Parliament, the Members are requested to submit all notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions through Members' Portal. However, the hard copies of Notices will continue to be received in the Parliamentary Notice Office and other designated places. Separate Ballots will be held for Notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions on dates specified in column 4 of the Chart showing the dates of holding Ballots and last dates of receipt of notices of questions circulated separately through Members' Portal. Notices for a particular date of sitting received upto 1000 hours of the date of holding Ballot for that sitting will be included in the said Ballot. **Where the notices of Starred and Unstarred questions are received before fifteen days from the day for which they are intended to be included in the List of Questions, they will be deemed to have been received at 1000 hours on the 15th day before such day and their inter-se priority will be determined by ballots.**

The Ballots will be held in the Question Branch, Room No. 128-B, Third Floor, Samvidhan Sadan or Parliament House of India after 1300 hours.

Members are requested to make it convenient to witness the balloting of the Notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions at the said timings and the dates.

No. 7804

Question Branch

Ballot Results of Notices of Questions on Lok Sabha Website

Members are informed that Ballot results of Notices of Questions (both Starred and Unstarred) will be made available on the Lok Sabha website which can be accessed through the following path:

Loksabha.nic.in → Business → Questions → Ballot List

sansad.in/ls → Business → Questions → Ballot List

Hard copies of Ballot results are also available in the Parliamentary Notice Office (PNO) of Lok Sabha.

Notices of Questions

Attention of the Members is invited to the following paragraph in the “Handbook for Members”:-

“10(2) (xii) Notices of questions should be clear, self-contained and complete. Questions which are illegible are liable to be returned to the members. Proper names wherever occurring in the text of questions may be written in block letters.”

Sometimes notices of questions tabled by the Members are illegible or typed/handwritten on a separate sheet of paper and stapled/pasted on the prescribed/printed form. Such notices which are not in order are returned to the Members.

Members are, therefore, requested kindly to have the notices typed or neatly written on the printed proforma itself. Every notice of question which is tabled on the printed form should be signed in ink by the Member. Members are requested kindly to indicate their names in CAPITAL LETTERS and the IC Number at appropriate place in the notices tabled by them.

Notice Period and Number of Questions

Members are informed that in accordance with Rule 33 of “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha” fifteen clear days have been prescribed for tabling notices of Questions. Further, according to latest Direction 10-B by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, a Member is permitted to table not more than five notices of Questions, for a given date. Members are requested to indicate the Order of Preference at the appropriate place, in the Question proforma including online notices.

Members are requested not to table more than 5 notices for a particular date.

Addressing of Notices of Questions

It has been observed that sometimes Members raise two or more different and unrelated subjects, involving more than one Ministry/Department in one notice of question. This causes administrative inconvenience to the Ministry/Department. Accordingly, Members are requested to address their notices of questions appropriately to one Ministry/Department only.

Demarcation of Responsibilities in Government of India

At times, notices of questions tabled by the Members are addressed to Ministers who are not concerned with the subject-matter thereof. This necessitates transfer of questions from one Ministry to another causing avoidable inconvenience to the Members themselves. They may, therefore, address the notices of questions to the Ministers who are responsible for their subject matter. For this purpose, the Members may refer to the link “Demarcation of Responsibilities in Government of India” available on the Lok Sabha Website which is accessible through the following path:

loksabha.nic.in → Business → Questions → Information and Rules → Demarcation of Responsibilities in Government of India

sansad.in/ls → Business → Questions → Information and Rules → Demarcation of Responsibilities in Government of India

It indicates the subjects for which the various Ministers are responsible for answering questions in Lok Sabha.

Procedure regarding Questions

Members are informed that the notices of Questions can be given after issuance of summons. **In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and also to achieve the objective of paperless Parliament, the Members are requested to submit the notices of Questions through Member's Portal.** However, the printed forms are also available in the Parliamentary Notice Office.

The procedure for Questions is governed by Rules 32 to 54 of the ‘Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha’ and Directions 10 to 18 of the ‘Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha’. In particular, attention is invited to the following provisions of Rules/Directions concerning admissibility of notices of Questions:-

Speaker to decide admissibility

43(1). The Speaker shall decide whether a question, or a part thereof, is or is not admissible under these rules and may disallow any question, or a part thereof, when in the opinion of the Speaker, it is an abuse of the right of questioning or is calculated to obstruct or prejudicially affect the procedure of the House or is in contravention of these rules.

Admissibility of Questions

41(2). The right to ask a question is governed by the following conditions, namely:-

- (i) it shall be clearly and precisely expressed and shall not be too general incapable of any specific answer or in the nature of a leading question;
- (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 oneself 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 that person's official or public capacity;
- (vii) it shall not ordinarily exceed 150 words;
- (viii) it shall not relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Government of India;
- (ix) it shall not ask about proceedings in the Committee which have not been placed before the House by a report from the Committee;
- (x) it shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion;
- (xi) it shall not make or imply a charge of a personal character;
- (xii) it shall not raise questions of policy too large to be dealt with within the limits of an answer to a question;
- (xiii) it shall not repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused;
- (xiv) it shall not ask for information on trivial matters;
- (xv) it shall not ordinarily ask for information on matters of past history;

- (xvi) it shall not ask for information set forth in accessible documents or in ordinary works of reference;
- (xvii) it shall not raise matters under the control of bodies or persons not primarily responsible to the Government of India;
- (xviii) it shall not ask for information on matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India;
- (xix) it shall not relate to a matter with which a Minister is not officially concerned;
- (xx) it shall not refer discourteously to a friendly foreign country;
- (xxi) it shall not seek information about matters which are in their nature secret such as composition of Cabinet Committees, Cabinet discussions, or advice given to the President in relation to any matter in respect of which there is a constitutional, statutory or conventional obligation not to disclose information;
- (xxii) it shall not ordinarily ask for information on matters which are under consideration of a Parliamentary Committee; and
- (xxiii) it shall not ordinarily ask about matters pending before any statutory tribunal or statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any commission or court of enquiry appointed to enquire into, or investigate, any matter but may refer to matters concerned with procedure or subject or stage of enquiry, if it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matter by the tribunal or commission or court of enquiry.

Direction 10-A. Besides the conditions of admissibility of questions mentioned in Rule 41, a question shall be inadmissible on any of the following grounds:-

- (i) it seeks information on matters which tend to encourage fissiparous and divisive tendencies and weaken the unity and integrity of the country;
- (ii) it relates to a matter of day-to-day administration or tends to further the interest of an individual or a few individuals;
- (iii) it relates to a matter falling primarily within the jurisdiction of the Chief Election Commissioner, C & AG, courts and other such functionaries;
- (iv) it relates to petitions and memoranda received by Ministers which are not of public importance;

- (v) it relates to a matter under negotiation with a government of other country and its disclosure may affect the course of negotiations to the detriment of the national interests; and
- (vi) it relates to a matter within the jurisdiction of the Speaker.

Members are requested to kindly take note of the above provisions while tabling notices of Questions so as to avoid disallowance of the questions on the above grounds.

No. 7810

Question Branch

Questions of Excessive Length

Attention of Members is invited to Rule 41(2) (vii) of the “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha” which is reproduced below:-

“41(2) The right to ask a question is governed by the following conditions, namely:-

* * * * *

(vii) it shall not ordinarily exceed 150 words.”

Sometimes notices of questions tabled by the Members are of excessive length and these have either to be disallowed or referred back to the Members.

Members are, therefore, requested to keep in view the above provisions, while tabling notices of questions.

No. 7811

Question Branch

Admissibility of Questions seeking information upto Block or District levels about implementation of Centrally Sponsored Programmes/Schemes

As information about block or district-wise outlays/expenditure/physical targets/achievements is primarily the concern of State Government, such information is not normally reported to or monitored by the Union Government. Members are, therefore, informed that questions seeking information about implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Programmes/Schemes at block or district levels are ordinarily inadmissible.

Members are, therefore, requested to keep in view the above position, while tabling notices of questions.

No. 7812

Question Branch

Questions on Newspaper Reports

Sometimes newspaper reports including vernacular newspaper reports are referred to in the notices of questions tabled by the Members without indicating the place of publication of such newspapers. As many of such news-items particularly vernacular newspapers are not easily traceable, the notices are returned to the Members to make them specific or to furnish a copy of press clipping referred to in such notices for processing them.

Members are, therefore, requested kindly to enclose a copy of the press clipping with the notices of questions, which have the reference of newspaper reports.

No. 7813

Question Branch

Treatment of Notices of Questions in Excess of 230

Members are informed that in accordance with Rule 45, not more than 230 questions are to be included in the list of questions for written answers on any one day. Such notices of questions in Excess of 230 stand lapsed. However, the copies of notices of Questions, in Excess of 230 shall be provided to the Members, if so, requested by them.

No. 7814

Question Branch

Status of Notices of Questions on Lok Sabha Website

Members are informed that Status of Notices of Questions is available in the Members e-portal.

No.7815

Question Branch

Dispensing with Circulation of Unstarred Questions List

Members are informed that the circulation of List of Unstarred Questions has been dispensed with from the Seventh Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha (2016). The List is now being uploaded on Lok Sabha Homepage.

No. 7816

Question Branch

Errata to the lists of Questions

Members are informed that lists of admitted questions for a day are uploaded on Lok Sabha Website/circulated to Members at least five days in advance of the date(s) on which those are due for answer. Patent errors, mistakes in spellings of names, etc. noticed by them in the lists of admitted questions may be brought to the notice of the Secretariat so as to facilitate issuing of necessary corrigenda in the matter.

No.7817

Question Branch

Confidentiality of answers to questions

Members are informed that the contents of reply made in response to a question is strictly confidential until the Question for Oral Answer has actually been asked and answered in the House. In case the question has not reached for oral answer, the reply to the Question should not be released till the conclusion of Question Hour. Questions included in the lists of written answers are also to be treated as confidential until the same have been laid on the Table of the House after the Question Hour is over. A reply to a question is treated as final, only in the form, in which it appears in the proceedings of the House, for a particular date.

No. 7818

Question Branch

Short Notice Questions

Rule 54(1) of the “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha” provides as follows:-

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

2. Further, Rule 54(5) of Rules ibid also provides as follows:

“Where a Member desires an oral answer to a question at a shorter notice, such member shall briefly state the reasons for asking the question with short notice. Where no reasons have been assigned in the notice of the question, the question shall be returned to the Member.”

3. Members are, therefore, requested to indicate in the appropriate column of the notice form, the reasons as to why the question is being asked at a short notice. A general statement that the matter is of “wider public importance” or “public interest” is not sufficient, for this purpose.

No. 7819

Question Branch

e-filing of Notices of Questions

As Members are aware, at present under the provisions of ‘Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha’, every notice is required to be given in writing and signed and the same should be submitted in Parliamentary Notice Office. As an initiative towards e-Parliament and paperless Secretariat, an e-portal namely Members' Portal was launched on 17th July, 2016 for the benefit of the Members. This portal is offering several online services to the Members including submission of notices for various parliamentary devices in electronic form, online references, etc.

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, Members are requested to submit their notices of Questions through Members' Portal in accordance with Bulletin Part-II Para No.3739 dated 17th July, 2016. However, the Parliamentary Notice Office will continue to receive physical notices from Members who choose to submit the same.

Kind cooperation of Members is solicited.

Uploading of Replies to Questions on Members' Portal

Members are aware that under a new initiative, replies to Starred Questions are being uploaded on Members' Portal by 0900 hours on the reply day. This initiative has been taken to facilitate Members to frame supplementaries. Similarly, replies to Unstarred Questions are being uploaded on Lok Sabha Homepage immediately after Question Hour.

2. It may be noted that since the replies are login and password protected on the Members' Portal, they are exclusively for the use of Members only. Members are, therefore, requested to maintain confidentiality of the replies and not to share the contents with others until the Question Hour is over.

3. Members are further informed that the hard copies of the replies to Starred Questions will continue to be made available in the Outer Lobby and PNO for reference, as before.

Kind cooperation of Members is solicited.

Questions Not Asked/Questions of Absent Members

Attention of the Members is invited to Rule 48(3) of the "Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha". It reads as follows:-

"If on a question being called it is not asked or the member in whose name it stands is absent, the Speaker may direct that the answer to it be given."

Accordingly, if on a question being called is not asked or the Member in whose name the question stands is absent, such question may be put down for discussion in the House.

Notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion

Members are informed that, as per Parliamentary convention developed over the years, no Half-an-Hour Discussion is listed during the Budget Session, till the conclusion of Financial Business.

Members are, therefore, requested to keep in view the above convention, while tabling notices for raising Half-an-Hour Discussion.

**Procedure for giving Notices of Motions under Rule 184 and of Short Duration
Discussions under Rule 193**

- (I) **Attention of the Members is invited to Direction 113BB of Directions by the Speaker relating to ‘Procedure for giving notices for motions under Rule 184 or on Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193’ which provides as follows:-**

- “113BB. (1) Notices of Motions under Rule 184 and Short Duration Discussions under Rule 193 shall be accepted from the date following the date of issue of summons for a session.
- (2) Such notices regarding statements to be made in the House by Ministers or statements, reports or papers to be laid on the Table shall be accepted from 10.00 hours on the day the list of business wherein the item has been included, is circulated to members.
- (3) In a case where a supplementary list of business is circulated in the House in regard to a statement, notices in respect of that statement received within fifteen minutes of circulation of the list of business, shall be deemed to have been received at the same point of time and their *inter-se* priority determined by ballot.
- (4) In a case where an announcement is made by the Chair about a statement to be made by a Minister in the House, notices in respect of that statement shall be accepted from the time the announcement is made by the Chair in the House.
- (5) In a case where a statement is made without being included in the list of business or supplementary list of business, notices in respect of such statement shall be accepted from the time the statement is actually made in the House.
- (6) All notices received within fifteen minutes of announcement by the Chair, or statement by the Minister under clauses (4) and (5) respectively, shall be deemed to have been received at the same point of time and their *inter-se* priority determined by ballot.

Explanation – The period of fifteen minutes referred to in clauses (3) and (6) shall be computed from the time of completion of circulation of list of business or the announcement by the Chair or the statement of the Minister, as the case may be.”

2. Members are requested to deliver all such notices in the Parliamentary Notice Office and not to pass them on to any Officer at the Table of the House. In any case the time of receipt of the notice in the Parliamentary Notice Office alone is taken into account for purposes of ballot, etc.

3. In case of notices received online, the time of receipt of the notice will be considered as per the date and time stamped by the Parliamentary Notice Office for purposes of ballot, etc.

(II) Attention of the Members is also invited to Rule 193 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha which states: –

“193. 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.”

The notices of Short Duration Discussions not conforming to the above provisions in the Rules of Procedure are liable to be held out of order.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General