

ALLOCATION OF TIME AND SELECTION OF SPEAKERS

Allocation of Time to Items of Business

It is the function of the Business Advisory Committee to recommend allocation of time for discussion of the stage or stages of such Government Bills and other business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct. Various items of business to be transacted during Government time, as per practice, are normally placed before the Business Advisory Committee for allocation of time. The suggestions made by Government in that regard are considered by the Committee and the recommendations of the Committee are presented to the House in the form of a report, after it is approved by the Speaker or the member who presided at the sitting of the Committee. After the House has agreed to the recommendations of the Committee on a motion moved by a member of the Committee, usually Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the allocation of time to those items of business takes effect as if it were an order of the House and is notified in the Bulletin—Part II. No variation in the Allocation of Time Order is made except on a motion made, with the consent of the Speaker, and accepted by

the House. However, the Speaker, after taking the sense of the House, may increase the time, not exceeding one hour, without a motion being moved.

2. Allocation of time to Private Members' Business is made on the recommendations of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

3. In order to regulate the business of the House, the time allotted to an item of business is distributed among various parties/groups according to their respective strength in the House.

How Members are called upon to speak?

4. A member desiring to notify the Speaker of her/his intention to take part in a debate or discussion in the House may adopt any one of the following three methods:—

- (i) the member may have her/his name communicated to the Speaker through the Parliamentary Party or Group to which the member belongs.

In all important debates, each party or group forwards a list to the Speaker containing the names of the members who would speak in such debates. The Speaker gives due consideration to such lists while calling upon members to speak but she/he is not bound by the list or the order in which the names have been given.

- (ii) the member may prefer to write direct to the Speaker without having to go through the machinery of Parliamentary Party or Group.

A member may write direct to the Speaker or the Secretary-General that she/he wishes to take part in a debate.

- (iii) the member may catch the Speaker's eye.

A member who may not like to take recourse to (i) or (ii) above but wishes to adopt the well known Parliamentary practice of catching the Speaker's eye may rise in her/his place when she/he wishes to take part in a debate.

Preparation of List of Speakers

5. For preparation of the list of speakers, in a particular debate or discussion, various parties/groups are divided into the following four categories and time is distributed among the parties/groups on the basis of their strength in the House:—

Major Parties/Groups	Those having a strength of 15 and more members in the House.
Medium Groups	Those having a strength between 5 and 14 members.
Small Groups	Those having a strength between 2 and 4 members.

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PREFACE

This Abstract is part of the Parliamentary Procedure Abstracts Series and describes the procedure regarding allocation of time to various items of business in the House and selection of speakers. It is based on the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Directions issued by the Speaker under the Rules of Procedure and the decisions/rulings given by the Chair from time to time. It is intended to serve as a handy guide for ready reference.

The information contained in this Abstract is, however, not exhaustive. It will, therefore, be prudent to refer to and rely on the original sources for full information.

NEW DELHI

Secretary General