

CALLING ATTENTION

Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance

What is a Calling Attention?

A member may, with the prior permission of the Speaker, call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make a statement at a later hour or date.

Notice

2. Notice of a calling attention should be given, in writing, addressed to the Secretary-General and copies thereof endorsed separately to: (i) the Speaker, and (ii) the Minister concerned. Standard forms for giving notice are available in the Parliamentary Notice Office.

3. Normally, a member should not give more than two calling attention notices for any one sitting. Notice signed by more than one member is deemed to have been given by the first signatory only.

When to table the notice?

4. Calling attention notices can be tabled from the date specified in Bulletin-Part II circulated to members

alongwith Summons for the session. Normally, the notices are entertained three working days before the commencement of the session. Notices received prior to that date are not considered valid and are returned to members.

5. Notices should be given by 10.00 hours in Parliamentary Notice Office (P.N.O.). A Notice Box is placed outside P.N.O. to enable members to deposit notices during the hours when that Office is closed. Notices received after 10.00 hours on a day are deemed to have been given for the next sitting of the House. It is, however, not necessary that notices given for a particular day may be allowed on that very day.

Validity of Notices

6. All notices received are valid for the week in which these have been tabled. Notices received upto 10.00 hours on the last day of the week on which the House sits and not selected by the Speaker during that week automatically lapse. No intimation about notices 'which lapse in the ordinary course' is given to the members. However, the members may, if they so desire, revive their notices for the following week by giving fresh notices on the subjects.

Notices on a subject which have either been admitted for any subsequent sitting during the following week or referred to the Government for furnishing facts do not, however, lapse.

7. The notices for the following week can be given only after 10.00 hours on the last day of the week on which the House sits, and are valid for the entire following week.

Selection of Notices

8. All calling attention notices received from day to day in a week are placed before the Speaker. These include notices received upto 10.00 hours on the day on which the notices are placed before the Speaker. The Speaker goes through the notices and may select one matter which in the opinion of the Speaker is more urgent and important, for the following day.

9. Ordinarily, only one matter is taken up on a day. In certain cases, however, the Speaker may select two such matters to be taken up at one sitting. The time for taking up the second matter is decided by the Speaker after taking into consideration the business of the House. However, the second matter cannot be raised by the same members who raised the first matter. If the Prime Minister is to make a statement in response to one of the two calling attention matters on a day, that matter is given *inter se* priority in the List of Business.

Not more than two such matters can be raised at the same sitting.

Ballot of Admitted Notices

10. Names of not more than five members are shown on a calling attention in the List of Business. Where the number of members who have given notice on a subject selected by the Speaker is more than five, a ballot is held to determine the *inter se* priority of five members in whose names the item is to be included in the List of Business. If the number of members giving notices on a subject selected by the Speaker is five or less, their *inter se* priority is determined with reference to the date and time of receipt of the notices. However, if more than one notice is received at the same point of time, a ballot is held to determine their *inter se* priority.

11. In the ballot, the names of all the members whose notices on the subject selected by the Speaker have been received upto 10.00 hours on the day (upto the time of selection in case a calling attention is selected for the following week on the last/or any sitting day of the week) are included. As soon as the calling attention is admitted and ballot held to determine priority, the Minister concerned and the members who have secured priority in the ballot are informed.

Entry in the List of Business

12. Names of members who have secured priority in the ballot are shown against the item when it is included in the List of Business for a particular day.

13. If a member has any objection to her/his name being shown on the calling attention in the form in which it has been admitted by the Speaker, she/he may inform the Lok Sabha Secretariat, immediately (but not later than the time when the House rises for the day, preceding the day on which calling attention is scheduled to be taken up), in writing that her/his name may not be shown on the calling attention in the List of Business.

When to call the attention of Minister?

14. The member whose name appears first on the entry in the List of Business, when called by the Speaker, calls the attention of the Minister by reading out the subject from the prescribed form which is handed over to her/him by the Lobby Officer in advance of the item being taken up in the House.

15. In case the member whose name appears first in the List of Business is not present, the attention is called by the member whose name appears next and so on and so forth.

In case all the members in whose names the item has been included are absent, the Minister is not required to make the statement. However, there is no bar if the

Minister chooses to make a *suo motu* statement on the subject or lay a copy thereof on the Table of the House. There is, however, no provision for a member to authorise any other member whose name is not included in the List of Business to call the attention on her/his behalf.

16. After the member has called the attention, the Minister makes a brief statement in response thereto.

17. Copies of the statement to be made by the Minister in response to calling attention are supplied to members, in whose names the item stands in the List of Business in advance on the day on which the item is to be taken up.

18. No debate is permitted on such a statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the List of Business is permitted to ask a brief clarificatory question.

19. The member who calls the attention may take not more than ten minutes and other members not more than five minutes each. The Minister replies at the end to all the clarificatory questions asked by members and the total time taken on a Calling Attention on a day is restricted to half-an-hour to forty-five minutes.

20. A member whose name does not appear on the calling attention in the List of Business is not permitted to ask a question or seek any clarification.

[Calling Attention notices are governed by Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Directions 47A and 2(xxii) of Directions by the Speaker.]

13

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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PREFACE

This Abstract is part of the Parliamentary Procedure Abstracts Series and describes the procedure regarding Calling Attention. 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