

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

### **Scope**

Matters, which are not points of order or which cannot be raised under the rules relating to Questions, Short Notice Questions, Calling Attention, Motions etc. can be raised under rule 377.

### **Notice**

2. Notice for raising a matter under rule 377 is to be given in writing addressed to the Secretary-General specifying clearly and precisely the text of the matter to be raised. Standard printed forms for giving notices are available in Parliamentary Notice Office. The text of the statement proposed to be made should not ordinarily exceed 150 words\*. Notices not accompanied with full text of the matter proposed to be raised are not admissible.

3. No matter can be raised unless the Speaker has given her/his consent thereto and only the approved text would go on record.

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\* As per the decision taken at a meeting of the Speaker with Leaders of Parties, the permissible size of the text has been reduced from 250 words to 150 words (Please see Para No. 1405, Bulletin—Part II, dated 24 November, 2000).

#### **When to table the notice**

4. Notices for raising matters under rule 377 can be tabled from the date specified in Bulletin—Part II circulated alongwith the Summons for the Session. Normally, the notices are entertained three working days before the commencement of the session. Notices should be given by 1000 hrs. Notices received after 1000 hrs. 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 will be allowed on that very day. Presently 30\* members are permitted to raise matters under rule 377 per day. Their names are selected on the basis of the strength of parties. The members are permitted to read the text of the matter and the item is taken up after Question Hour and other formal items listed in the agenda paper as per Direction 2 of the Directions by the Speaker, regarding relative precedence of different classes of business.

5. Notices received at the same point of time on a day are balloted to determine their *inter-se* priority.

6. As an initiative towards e-Parliament and Paperless Secretariat, an e-portal for online submission of various Notices by Members including Notices under Rule 377, has been in operation since 18 July, 2016.

\*As per the decision taken at a meeting of the Speaker with Leaders of Parties, the number of matters to be raised under Rule 377 has been increased from 20 to 30 per day to enable more members to raise their issues (Please see Para No. 2099 Bulletin—Part-II dated 22 July, 2015).

Hence, members desirous of submitting notices online can accordingly do so. Thus members can table notices both online and offline.

**Validity of notices**

7. All notices under rule 377 are valid for the week in which these have been tabled. Notices received upto 1000 hrs. on the last day of the week on which the House sits and not selected automatically lapse. However, such notices can be revived for the following week. Notice referred for facts under orders of the Speaker does not lapse till it is finally disposed of.

8. The notices for the following week can be given only after 1000 hrs. on the last day of the week on which the House sits and are valid for the entire following week.

In order to obviate inconvenience to the members, all notices given after 1000 hours and upto 1030 hrs. on the last day of the week on which the House sits, are deemed to have been received at the same point of time and these are balloted together to determine the *inter-se* priority of the members. Notices received subsequently are arranged in accordance with the date and time of their receipt.

**Conditions of admissibility**

9. A notice to be admissible must satisfy *inter-alia* the following conditions:—

- (i) it should not refer to a matter which is not primarily the concern of Government of India;

- (ii) it should not relate to a matter which has been discussed in the same session or which is substantially identical to the matter already raised by a member during the session;
- \*(iii) it should not ordinarily exceed 150 words;
- (iv) it should not raise more than one issue;
- (v) it should not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statement;
- (vi) it should not refer to proceedings of a Parliamentary Consultative Committee;
- (vii) it should not be on a subject on which a question/calling attention/motion etc. has been discussed or admitted.
- (viii) it should not raise purely local issue or be of concern to some individual(s) only;
- (ix) it should not relate to a matter which is *sub-judice*; and
- (x) it should not refer to the correspondence between the Centre and the State or between States.

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\*Please also see the footnote on page 1.

**When raised?**

10. An entry under the heading "Matters under rule 377" is included in the List of Business *w.e.f.* 7 August, 1990. The matter is usually taken up after laying of papers and introduction of Bills etc. as per the provision of Direction 2 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

11. A copy of the text as approved by the Speaker is provided to the member on the day on which she/he is allowed to raise the matter.

**Limit on raising matters**

12. A member can raise only one matter during a week under rule 377.

13. On the day (usually Friday) when the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs makes a statement regarding Government Business for the following week, matters under rule 377 are not generally raised.

14. The relevant proceedings of matters raised under rule 377 are sent to the Ministry concerned on the next working day for being placed before the Minister. Copies of such communications together with the relevant proceedings are also sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs which are entrusted with the responsibility of co-ordinating action in respect of matters raised by the members. The Ministers write to the members with regard to matters raised by them under rule 377, informing them of Government's view and/or action taken in the matter.

Further, as per the decision taken by the Rules Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha—Fourth Report) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha, the Ministers should send their replies to Members regarding matters raised by them in the House under rule 377 within one month's time. Further clarifications, if any, may be obtained by members directly from the Minister/Ministry concerned.

Normally, Ministers do not make statements on matters raised under rule 377. However, if a Minister so desires, she/he may make a statement on the subject with the permission of the Speaker.

The position of the replies of matters raised under rule 377 received in the Secretariat is reviewed by the Speaker at the Leaders' meeting held before the commencement of each session.

*[Rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Direction 2 of the Directions by the Speaker.]*

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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 tabling of notices under rule 377. 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*