

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBERS

Scope

A member may make a personal explanation with the permission of the Speaker with regard to:—

- (i) comments or criticism of a personal nature made against her/him by a fellow member or a Minister on the floor of the House;
- (ii) her/his conduct referred to in a report laid on the Table of the House; and
- (iii) allegations made against her/him in Rajya Sabha.

Where allegations are made in the House against a political party, the Leader or Chief Whip of that party or group in the House may be permitted to make a statement in regard thereto.

The member, however cannot make a personal explanation:—

- (i) to contradict or clarify a report published in the Press which is not connected with the proceedings of the House;

- (ii) to clarify her/his own statement made earlier in the House; and
- (iii) on behalf of another member against whom allegations have been made.

2. After the personal explanation no further questions or counter statement or explanation are allowed. If the allegations made against a member are denied by her/him on the floor of the House, the denial should be accepted by the member who made the allegation. Even if the member who made the allegation is not satisfied with the personal explanation, no further statement is allowed as such statements and explanations cannot go on indefinitely and converted into a debate by a series of statements. The matter is treated as closed with the statements of both sides being on record.

Procedure to be followed

3. A member wishing to make a statement by way of personal explanation should write to the Speaker sufficiently in advance enclosing a copy of the statement to be made by her/him in first person. The request for personal explanation should be made at the earliest opportunity.

4. A member is not permitted to make a personal explanation unless a copy thereof has been submitted in writing to the Speaker and the Speaker has approved its

text. The statement should be brief and concise and should not introduce any controversial or debatable matter. Words, phrases and expressions which are not in the statement approved by the Speaker, if spoken, shall not form part of the proceedings of the House.

5. After the Speaker has granted the permission, the item is normally included in the List of Business for the following day. As far as possible the member on whose remarks the personal explanation is based, is informed about the personal explanation being made.

6. Where a member wants to make personal explanation after having been referred to by a Minister in her/his statement in the House, a copy of the statement submitted by the member to the Speaker in advance, is normally sent to the Minister concerned for information.

7. When the member against whom allegations are made is present in the House at that time and wants to make a personal explanation, she/he should wait until the member who is speaking has finished the speech and then should ask for the permission of the Chair to make any personal explanation.

Similarly, a member having the right of reply at the end of debate may not make personal explanation separately.

[Rule 357 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Direction 115(c) of the Directions by the Speaker.]

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PREFACE

This Abstract is part of the Parliamentary Procedure Abstracts Series and describes the procedure regarding Personal explanation by members. 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