

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Composition

The Railway Convention Committee consists of 18 members—12 members from Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker and 6 members from Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The Minister of Railways* and the Minister of Finance are amongst the members nominated to the Committee.

Process of nomination

2. Immediately, after the Lok Sabha is constituted, the Railway Minister moves a resolution for nominating

* For the first time, Minister of Finance was not nominated as a Member of the Railway Convention Committee (1989). After change of Government at the Centre on 10 November, 1990 the new Railway Minister was also not nominated to the Committee and the former Railway Minister continued to be a Member of the Committee. The earlier practice was revived in the Railway Convention Committee (1991) with the nomination of the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Finance as Members of the Committee *w.e.f.* 18 April, 1994 and 18 May, 1994 respectively. In R.C.C. (1996), only Minister of Railways was nominated as a member of the Committee. In Railway Convention Committee (1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009) neither of the two Ministers was nominated as a member.

12 members of Lok Sabha by the Speaker on the Railway Convention Committee. After the motion is adopted, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and the leaders of the respective groups in the Lok Sabha are requested to suggest names of their party Members according to their respective strength for consideration of the Speaker. On receipt of names of members from the respective parties/groups, the Speaker nominates 12 members from Lok Sabha and their names are published in Bulletin—Part II.

Association of Members of Rajya Sabha

3. While moving resolution for nominating members from Lok Sabha, another motion is also moved in Lok Sabha recommending to Rajya Sabha to nominate 6 members of the House for being associated with the Committee. After adoption, the motion is transmitted to Rajya Sabha through a message. Rajya Sabha concurs with the recommendation of Lok Sabha and the names of the members nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha are communicated to Lok Sabha.

Appointment of Chairperson

4. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the Members of the Committee.

Term of Office

5. The Committee becomes *functus officio* after presenting its final Report regarding rate of dividend.

Functions of the Committee

6. The Railway Convention Committee reviews the rate of dividend which is payable by the Railway Undertaking to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with the Railway Finances *vis-a-vis* General Finance and makes recommendations thereon. It also suggests the level of appropriation to various funds of Railways like the Depreciation Reserve Fund, Development Fund, Capital Fund, Pension Fund, etc. The House or the Speaker may also refer to the Committee the *ad hoc* issues of public importance relating to the Railways and Railway Finances.

The Railway Convention Committees of 1949, 1954, 1960 and 1965 confined themselves only to the question of determining the rate of dividend payable by Railways during the succeeding quinquennium. Since 1971, the Railway Convention Committees has, in addition to recommending the rate of dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues, also been taking up for examination other subjects which have a bearing on the working of Railways and Railway Finances.

6A. With effect from the financial year 2017-18, the Railway Finance has been merged with General Finance and as a consequence, no separate Railway Budget is presented to the Parliament and payment of dividend by the Railways to General Revenue has been dispensed with.

Selection of Subjects for Examination

7. As soon as the Committee is constituted, it selects for its examination subjects related to the working of Railways/matters connected with carrying social and defence obligations by Railways.

Calling for Information from the Government

8. The Committee has the power to send for persons, papers and records. After the subjects are selected, the Ministry of Railways and others concerned are asked to furnish memoranda and other material relating to the subjects selected for information of the Members of the Committee. Sometimes it also invites memoranda from State Governments and other concerned non-official individuals/organisations.

As regards the rate of dividend, that may be payable by the Railways to the General Revenues, the Committee invites memorandum from the Financial Commissioner of Railways. The memorandum contains views both of the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Finance on the various proposals made in the memorandum.

Study Tours

9. If it appears to the Committee that it is necessary for the purpose of its examination that on-the-spot study should be made, the Committee undertakes tours to study a particular matter/project etc. Notes relating to the organisations/workshops/establishments to be visited are

called for in advance from the Ministry of Railways and circulated to the members of the Committee. These notes form the basis for informal discussion which the Committee holds with the railway officials etc. Each study tour is undertaken with the specific approval of the Speaker.

Evidence of Officials

10. The Committee later takes oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Railways and others concerned on the subjects under examination.

Reports and Minutes

11. The conclusions of the Committee on a subject are contained in its Report, which, after its adoption by the Committee, is presented by the Chairperson to the Lok Sabha. A copy of the Report is also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha. Minutes of the sittings of the Committee form Part-II of the Report. The Reports of the Committee are adopted by consensus among members. Accordingly, there is no system of appending Note of dissent to the Report.

The Report of the Committee on the rate of dividend is considered by the Houses on a resolution moved by the Minister of Railways. Other Reports of the Committee normally are not discussed in the House.

Action Taken Reports

12. After presentation to the Lok Sabha, the Report is forwarded to the Ministry of Railways and other concerned Ministries which are required to take action on the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Report and furnish action taken replies thereon within 6 months. The replies of the Government are examined by the Committee and Action Taken Report is then presented to both the Houses of Parliament.

[The working of the Committee is governed by Rules 253 to 286 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Directions 48 to 73 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha]

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COMMITTEE**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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PREFACE

This Abstract is part of the Parliamentary Procedure Abstracts Series and describes the procedure regarding working of Railway Convention Committee. It is based on the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Directions issued by the Speaker under Rules of Procedure, the well-established conventions and past precedents. 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