



STEP BY STEP SCHOOL, NOIDA YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2020

LOK SABHA **Rules of Procedure**

Roll Call

The Lok Sabha executive board will be taking your attendance before the sessions starts through roll call and the members have to give in their attendance as “Present”. Roll Call will be taken before the start of every morning session.

Opening Statements

Opening statement would be the first address given by Members to the house. For the purpose of this conference, **every** member must give their opening statement before the house during the 1st session. An opening statement of the member should ideally contain their party’s and personal (in capacity of Member of Parliament) stand on the main agenda. Opening statements would lay the basis of further deliberations the house is going to undertake during the session and try to clear out party stands (if any).

Opening statements should ideally not exceed 2 minutes. There would not be any interjections entertained on the opening statements. Whatever questions the members wish to raise maybe sent in writing to the speaker. Those questions will be raised during the Question Hour.

Short Period Discussions

For the purpose of this conference, in order to provide opportunities to Members to discuss matters relating to the Agenda, members can initiate Short Period Discussions on various issues concerning the main agenda.

The house will move into Short Period Discussions as soon as it gets over with Opening Statements of the members. Any member can propose a topic for the Short Period Discussion which will be put to a placard vote and would require a simple majority to be adopted as the topic for the short period of discussion. Although there is no set time defined for a short period of discussion, it should ideally not exceed 20-25 minutes.

As soon as the time for one short period discussion lapses, the speaker would be entertaining further topics for short period discussions from the members.

***Note:** Interjections entertained will be on the discretion of the executive board and depending on the time limit.*

Question Hour

Generally, the first hour of a sitting of Lok Sabha is devoted to Questions and that hour is called the Question Hour. It has a special significance in the proceedings of Parliament.

Asking of questions is an inherent and unfettered parliamentary right of members. It is during the Question Hour that the members can ask questions on every aspect of administration and Governmental activity. Government policies in national as well as international spheres come into sharp focus as the members try to elicit pertinent information during the Question Hour.

The Government is, as it were, put on its trial during the Question Hour and every member whose turn it is to answer questions has to stand up and answer for his or his administration's acts of omission and commission. Through the Question Hour the Government is able to quickly feel the pulse of the nation and adapt its policies and actions accordingly. It is through questions in Parliament that the Government remains in touch with the people in as much as members are enabled thereby to ventilate the grievances of the public in matters concerning the administration. Questions enable Ministries to gauge the popular reaction to their policy and administration. Questions bring to the notice of the Ministers many an abuse which otherwise would have gone unnoticed.

Sometimes questions may lead to the appointment of a commission, a court of enquiry or even legislation when matters raised are grave enough to agitate the public mind and are of wide public importance.

The Question Hour is an interesting part of the Parliamentary proceedings. Although a question mainly seeks information and tries to elicit facts on a particular subject, there are many a time lively and quicksilver repartees between the Members asking the questions and the Ministers answering them. These repartees are sometimes coupled with flashes of wit and humour. That is why the public galleries and the press galleries are packed to capacity during the Question Hour.

The members are urged to listen carefully to whatever statements are made by different members throughout the day and send the questions in writing to the executive board right from the start of session till the question hour begins. The questions can pertain to anything discussed in the short period discussions or something said during the opening statements.

Although, the scope of question hour is very wide when it comes to its real sense but for the purpose of this conference, we'd urge the members to restrict the questions to the agenda at hand.

Note: Each Question would be followed by 2 supplementary questions (Follow-up questions) which can be put forth by any member apart from the one who initially posed the written question.

Zero Hour

We are quite accustomed to see members of Parliament asking questions during the Question Hour. That's how Parliament begins its day when it's in session. Apart from the Question Hour, Parliament allocates additional time slot for the members to discuss issues. Although it's not recognized in our parliamentary procedure, 'Zero Hour' has now become a norm in both the houses of Parliament.

Zero Hour – Rules & Regulations for the purpose of this conference

Members wishing to raise matters of public importance during the "Zero Hour" need to give notice to the executive board before the Zero hour starts. The notice should clearly state the subjects they want to raise. The executive board is the final authority who can either reject or accept such request.

Minimum 15 and maximum 20 matters will be allowed to be raised during the Zero Hour. Again, it is the executive board who decides which subjects are to be discussed and in what order. The total time allocated for Zero Hour would ideally be 45 minutes – 1 hour wherein a member gets three minutes to raise the issue. Moreover, a member is allowed to make only one Zero Hour request

Informal Session for drafting of “Sense of the House Resolution”

A Resolution is a formal expression of the sense, will or action of the Legislative Body. Resolutions may be broadly divided into three categories:

Resolutions which are expression of opinion by the House: Since the purpose of such a Resolution is merely to obtain an expression of opinion of the House, the Government is not bound to give effect to the opinions expressed in these Resolutions.

Resolutions which have statutory effect: The notice of a Statutory Resolution is given in pursuance of a provision in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament. Such a Resolution, if adopted, is binding on the Government and has the force of law.

Resolutions which the House passes in the matter of control over its own proceedings: It has the force of law and its validity cannot be challenged in any court of law. The House, by such a Resolution, evolves, sometimes, its own procedure to meet a situation not specifically provided for in the Rules.

For the purpose of this conference, we’d be adopting a “Sense of the house resolution” which is merely to merely to obtain an expression of opinion of the House and the Government is not bound to give effect to the opinions expressed in these Resolutions. The Resolution can have recommendations for the government to work upon certain things and bring about amendments in statutory laws or the Constitution.

The format of the Sense of the House Resolution would either be displayed through a projector or written on a whiteboard when the house moves to the formulation of the resolution.

The house will get an informal session for drafting of the Sense of the House resolution.

Tabling of Sense of the House Resolution

After the drafting of the Sense of the House resolution, any member from the Opposition or Government may move a motion for tabling of the Resolution.

Discussion/Statements on Sense of the House Resolution

After the tabling of the resolution, the house will move into a discussion of the resolution where individual members can make statements and give their opinions on the resolution.

Amendments moved to sense of the House Resolution

After the discussion is complete, individual members will get 10 minutes to send in any amendments to the Sense of the House resolution. After all the amendments are received, the executive board will read out the amendments and a simple majority would be required to adopt these amendments and make them part of the resolution.

Adoption of Sense of the House resolution

After the amendment procedure, the house will move into the adoption procedure of the sense of the house resolution. A voice vote would be taken by the executive board . All those in favor would have to say “Ayes” and all those against would have to say “No”. Ideally, a sense of the house resolution is something which the house has an in-principle unanimity; however there is no requirement of it being a unanimous resolution.

Adjournment Sine Die

The house would be adjourned Sine-Die .

General Instructions

Language: Lok Sabha would be a bilingual committee wherein members can speak either in Hindi or in English.

Reports: Only Governmental/Parliamentary/Law Commission reports would be taken as official. Any other Newspaper reports, International Reports, NGO findings/Studies etc. can be brought up for debate but would hold no official value.

Points: The members would have 4 points –

- i) Point of Personal Privilege- to point out any physical discomfort they are facing
- ii) Point of Order – to point out procedural errors or factual inaccuracies
- iii) Point of Parliamentary Inquiry- to ask any procedural doubts to the Lok Sabha Executive board.
- iv) Right to yield- to Executive board or to another delegate.

Notes:

- Certain changes in the procedure during the session day may occur. If it so happens, the delegates will be informed about them.
- Chits during the session are allowed.
- Please refer to the 'Glossary of Parliamentary Terms' for a more detailed insight into technical Lok Sabha proceedings.

For any further Doubts please feel free to reach out to the executive board at any point before the session.