LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE
ASSEMBLY ABSTRACT SERIES

10

Legislature Committees

TELANGANA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
HYDERABAD

PREFACE

This abstract containing the information pertaining to the **Legislature Committees** is a part of Legislative Procedure and is intended to serve as handy guide for ready reference. The information contained in this abstract booklet is in consonance with the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Telangana Legislative Assembly.

The information contained in this publication is not exhaustive and it cannot be quoted as an authority. It is hoped that this publication will meet the reference requirements. However, for authenticity, the original source may be referred to and relied upon.

Hyderabad,
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Secretary to State Legislature.

LEGISLATURE COMMITTEES

In a Parliamentary system of democracy, the Government is collectively responsible to the Lower House of the Legislature as it is the House of Representatives whom the people elect directly on the basis of adult franchise. The aim of the Government is to establish a Welfare State. In the process of development in that direction, the activities of the Government have increased by leaps and bounds. It resulted in the increase of workload in the Legislature. The Legislature can hardly give close consideration to all the Legislative matters as well as other matters that come before it, as the time at its disposal is limited. As such, a good deal of work is transacted in Committees of the House. These

Committees examine every aspect minutely and take the guidance of experts, determine things methodically. These Committees are known as Legislature Committees.

The term 'Committee' means any Committee which is appointed or elected by House or nominated by the Speaker or constituted under the rules and includes a Select Committee which functions under the direction of the Speaker and present its report to the House or the Speaker.

The Legislature Committees are of two types. They are Standing Committees and Ad-hoc Committee.

AD-HOC Committees :

Ad-hoc Committees also known as House Committees which are appointed for a

specific purpose. They cease to exist when they complete the task assigned to them and present their report.

Select Committees on Bills and the Committees appointed to go into irregularities of an institution or agency come under this category.

Standing Committees :

The House of the Legislature has the following standing Committees :

1. Business Advisory Committee.
2. Committee on Petitions.
3. Committee of Privileges.
4. Committee on Government Assurances.
5. Committee on Subordinate Legislation.
6. Committee on Public Accounts.
7. Committee on Estimates.

8. Committee on Public Undertakings.
9. Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Tribes.
10. Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes.
11. Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes.
12. Committee on Welfare of Women, Children, Disabled and the Old Aged.
13. Committee on Welfare of Minorities.
14. Committee on Amenities.
15. Committee on General Purposes.
16. Committee on Library.
17. Committee on Rules.
18. Committee on Ethics.
19. Committee on Wild Life and Environment Protection.

Appointment of Committee:

The Members of a Committee are appointed or elected by the House on a motion made, or nominated by the Speaker, as the case may be. No member is appointed to a Committee if he is not willing to serve on it.

The Speaker nominates members to all the Committees except Financial Committees.

Appointment of Chairman:

The Chairman of each of the Committee of Legislature is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee, in case the Speaker is a member of the Committee, he acts as ex-officio Chairman of the Committee. If the Deputy Speaker is a member of a Committee where Speaker is not a member, he is appointed as Chairman of the Committee.

Term of Office :

A Committee, nominated by the Speaker, holds office for the period specified by him or until a new Committee is nominated.

Quorum :

The quorum to constitute a sitting of a Committee is about one-third of the total number of members of the Committee. If there is no quorum, the Chairman of the Committee suspends the sitting until there is a quorum or adjourns the sitting to some future date.

Sitting of the Committee :

The sittings of the Committee are held on such days and at such hour as the Chairman of the Committee may fix. The sitting of a Committee should be held in private.

Voting in Committee :

All questions at any sitting of a Committee is determined by a majority of votes of members present and voting. In the case of an equality of votes on any matter, the Chairman or the member acting as such, exercises casting vote.

Implementation reports on the Recommendations of the Committee:

The Government should invariably furnish action taken reports to the House on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Committee including House Committees within six months from the date of despatch of the report of them.

Business Advisory Committee :

The B.A.C decides the business like,

discussion on Budget, Governor Address, Bills, short discussions etc to be transacted by the Assembly. It recommends time that should be allotted for discussion of such Government Bills and other business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct for being referred to the Committee. The Committee may, indicate in the proposed time table the different hours at which various stages of the Bill and other business are to be completed.

Committee on Petitions :

The Committee examines every Petition referred to it. It reports to the House on specific complaints made in the Petition referred to it after taking such evidence. The Committee suggests remedial measures either in concrete form applicable to the

case under review or to prevent such case in future.

Committee of Privileges :

The Committee examines every notice of breach of privilege referred to it and determines with reference to the facts of the case whether breach of privilege is involved. It makes suitable recommendations in its report.

Committee on Government Assurances :

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinizes the assurances, promises, undertakings etc., given by Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House. It makes a report on the extent to which such assurances, promises, undertakings, etc., have been implemented; and where

implemented, whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation :

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation scrutinizes and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws, etc., conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Legislature are being properly exercised within such delegation.

Committee on Public Accounts :

The committee on Public Accounts examines accounts showing the appropriation to sums granted by the House for the expenditure of the State of Government, the annual financial

accounts of the State Government, and such other accounts laid before the House as the Committee may think fit;

In scrutinising the Appropriation Accounts of the State Government and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon; it shall be the duty of the Committee to satisfy itself;

That the money shown in the accounts as having been disbursed were legally available for, and applicable to, the service or purpose to which they have been applied or charged;

That the expenditure conforms to the authority which governs it; and that every reappropriation has been made in accordance with the provisions made in this behalf under rules framed by Competent Authority;

The Chairman shall bring to the notice of the Assembly;

In every case in which it is not so satisfied all expenditure which the Finance Department has requested should be brought to the notice of the Assembly;

it shall also be the duty of the Committee to examine the statement of accounts showing the income and expenditure of State Corporations, Trading and Manufacturing Schemes, concerns and projects together with the balance sheets and statements of profit and loss accounts which the Governor may have required to be prepared or are prepared under the provisions of the statutory rules regulating the financing of a particular corporation, trading or manufacturing scheme or Concern or Project and the report

of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon;

to examine the statement of accounts showing the income and expenditure of autonomous and semi autonomous bodies, the audit of which may be conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India either under directions of the Governor or by a Statute of State Legislature;

to consider the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General in cases where the Governor may have required him to conduct an audit of any receipts or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks ;

if any money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted by the House for that purpose the Committee shall examine with reference

to the facts of each case the circumstances leading to such as excess and make such recommendations as it may deem fit.

Committee on Estimates :

There shall be a Committee on Estimates for the examination of such as the estimates as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the House. The functions of the Committee shall be :-

a) to report what economies, improvements in reorganisation, efficiency or administrative reform consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected;

b) to suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency, and economy in administration;

c) to examine whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates; and

to suggest the form in which the estimates shall be presented to the Assembly.

Committee on Public Undertakings:

There shall be a Committee on Public Undertakings for the examination of the working of the Public Undertakings specified in the Schedule and such other Public Undertakings, as may be specified by the Speaker from time to time. The functions of the Committee shall be;

to examine the reports and accounts of the Public Undertakings specified in the schedule;

to examine in the context of the autonomy and efficiency of the public undertakings whether the affairs of the public undertakings are being managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practice; and

to exercise such other functions vested in the Committee on Public Accounts and the Committee on Estimates in relation to the public undertakings specified in the schedule as are not covered by above Clauses and as may be allotted to the Committee by the Speaker from time to time.

Committee on Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes:

The Committee examines the measures taken by the State government to secure due representation of the Scheduled Tribes

in services and posts under its control having regard to the provisions of Articles 16 and 335 of the Constitution. It reviews the progress and implementation of welfare programmes and other ameliorative measures as also constitutional safeguards for the Schedule Tribes.

Committee on Welfare of the Scheduled Castes:

The Committee examines the measures taken by the State Government to secure due representation of the Schedule Castes in services and posts under its control having regard to the provisions of Articles 16 and 335 of the constitution; and to review the progress and implementation of welfare programmes and other ameliorative measures as also constitutional safeguards for the Schedule Castes.

Committee on Welfare of the Backward Classes :

The Committee examines the measures taken by the State Government, to secure due representation of the Backward Classes in services and posts under its control having regard to the provisions of Article 16 of the Constitution and guarantees given by the State Government to the Backward Communities. It reviews the progress and implementation of welfare programmes and other ameliorative measures and also constitutional safeguards for the Backward Classes.

Committee on Welfare of Women, Children, Disabled and the Old Aged:

The Committee examines the measures taken by the State Government to secure due

representation to women in services and posts under its control and to review the progress and implementation of welfare programmes and other ameliorative measures of Women, Children, Disabled and the Old Aged.

Committee on Welfare of Minorities:

The Committee examines the matters concerning the Welfare of Minorities which fall within the purview of State Government. The functions of the Committee is to examine the matters relating to the welfare of Minorities taken by the State Government and to review the progress and welfare programmes and other ameliorative measures taken up for the welfare of Minorities.

Committee on Amenities :

The Committee on Amenities deals with all questions relating to residential

accommodation for members of the State Legislature. It exercises supervision over facilities for accommodation, food, medical aid and other amenities accorded to members. The functions of the Committee are advisory.

Committee on General Purposes :

The Committee on General purposes considers and advises on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.

Committee on Library:

The Committee considers and advises on such matters concerning the Library as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time. It considers any questions for improvement of the library and assists

members in fully utilising the services provided by the Library.

Committee on Rules :

The Committee considers matters of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House. It recommends any amendments or additions to the rules, that are considered necessary.

Committee on Ethics :

The Committee on Ethics examines the unethical conduct of Members both within and outside the House. The Committee, after examination of every complaint with reference to the facts, should submit a report to the House. The report should also suggest the procedure to be followed by the House for giving effect to the recommendation made by it.

Committee on Wild Life and Environment Protection:

The Committee examines the measures taken by the State Government in protection of Wild Life and Environment and to review the progress from time to time and to give suggestions wherever necessary.