

**LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE**  
**ASSEMBLY ABSTRACT SERIES**

**1**

**Questions**



**TELANGANA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT**  
**HYDERABAD**

## **PREFACE**

This abstract containing the information pertaining to **Questions** raised in the House 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,  
December, 2018.

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## QUESTIONS

The Question Hour in the House of the Legislature has acquired great importance and significance. The proceedings in the Question Hour of the House are more attractive and lively. As such, the Visitor's galleries and Press galleries are packed to capacity. During the Question Hour more light is thrown on several aspects of administration when the members seek to obtain or elicit information on a matter of public interest, on the Floor of the House. It establishes the control and supervision of Legislature over Executive. Putting questions to Ministers to elicit information is an inherent right of a member resulting in the provision of Question Hour. The first hour of a sitting is provided for this purpose.

The main purpose of putting a question is to elicit information from the Minister. But it gives an opportunity to the members to bring omissions and commissions in administration to the notice of the Government and prompts it to take immediate action in the matter. The Government is kept in touch with the public through questions, and gauge the public opinion. Members bring many issues effecting the public through questions. They would, otherwise, have gone unnoticed.

The Questions are of three types.

They are :-

### **(1) Starred Questions :**

A Starred Question is one to which a member seeks an oral answer on the Floor of the House. A member who desires an oral

answer to his/her question is required to distinguish it by an asterisk or a star.

## **(2) Unstarred Questions :**

An Unstarred Question is one to which written answer is desired by the member. If the member does not distinguish his/her question by an asterisk or a star, the question is printed on the list of Questions for written answer.

## **(3) Short Notice Questions :**

Short Notice Question is one that pertains to a matter of urgent public importance. It can be asked with shorter notice. If the Speaker is of the opinion that the Question is of an urgent character, he/she may direct that Minister concerned to answer the question on a date to be fixed by him/her. Where a

member desires an oral answer to a question at a shorter notice, he should give reasons for asking the question with short notice. The Speaker fixes a date for answering the same after it is admitted, within five days from the date of receipt of Question.

### **1. Notice of Questions :**

Every notice of a Question is to be given in writing, addressed to the Secretary. It is to be delivered either in person or sent by post or left in the Notice Box at the Office of the Assembly during office hours on any working day.

### **2. Conditions of Admissibility of Questions :**

No question should be allowed unless it fulfills the following conditions :

- (i) It shall not bring in any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible ;
- (ii) If it contains a statement, the member shall make himself/herself responsible for the accuracy of the statement ;
- (iii) It shall not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements ;
- (iv) It shall not ask for any expressions of opinion of the solution of an abstract, legal question or of a hypothetical propositions ;
- (v) It shall not ask as to the character or conduct of any person except in his/her official or public capacity ;
- (vi) It shall not ordinarily exceed 150 words;



- (vii) It shall not relate to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the State Government ;
- (viii) It shall not ask about proceedings in a Committee which have not been placed before the Assembly by a report from that Committee ;
- (ix) It shall not reflect on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion ;
- (x) It shall not make or imply a charge of a personal character ;
- (xi) It shall not raise questions or policy too large to be dealt with within the limits of an answer to a question ;
- (xii) It shall not repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused ;

- (xiii) It shall not ask for information on trivial or frivolous matters ;
- (xiv) It shall not ordinarily seek information on matters of past history ;
- (xv) It shall not require information setforth in accessible documents or in ordinary works of reference ;
- (xvi) It shall not raise matters under the control of bodies or persons not primarily responsible to the State Government ;
- (xvii) It shall not ask for information on a matter which is under adjudication by a Court of Law having jurisdiction in any part of India.
- (xviii) It shall not relate to a matter with which a Minister is not officially connected ;

- (xix) It shall not refer discourteously to a friendly foreign country ;
- (xx) It shall not seek information regarding Cabinet discussions, or advice given to the Governor in relation to any matter in respect of which there is constitutional, statutory or conventional obligation not to disclose information;
- (xxi) It shall not ordinarily seek information on matters which are under consideration before a Committee; and
- (xxii) It shall not ordinarily ask about matters pending before any statutory tribunal or statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any Commission or Court of Enquiry appointed to enquire into or investigate any matter but may refer to matters concerned with procedure or subject

or stage or enquiry, if it is not likely to prejudice the consideration of the matter by the Tribunal or Commission or Court of Enquiry or before a Court of a competent authority.

In matters which are under correspondence between the State Government and the Government of India or the Government of a State, no question should be asked except as to matters of fact, and the answer should be confined to a statement of fact.

### **3. Speaker to decide Admissibility of Question :**

The Speaker decides whether a question or a part there of is or not admissible under the rules. He may disallow any question or a part thereof where in his opinion it is an abuse of the right of questioning or is in contravention

of Rules, etc. The speaker may, if he is of the view that any question put down for oral answer is of such a nature for which a written reply could be more appropriate, direct that such question be placed on the list of questions for written answers.

### **List of Questions:**

The Questions admitted are forwarded to the Government for sending answer to the Legislature Secretariat. Questions admitted are entered in the list of questions for a day. Not more than two questions given by the same member are ordinarily put in the list of questions. Starred questions entered in the list of questions for a day are called, if the time made available for questions permits, in the order in which they stand in the list. If any Question placed on the list of questions

for oral answers on any day is not called for answer within the time available for answering questions on that day, the Minister to whom the question is addressed lays a copy of the written reply to the question upon the Table of the House. No reply is given to such question and no supplementary questions are asked in respect thereof. When the speaker calls the name of a member in whose name question appears on the list of questions, he/she should rise in his/her place and ask the question by reference to its number on the list of questions. If a question is shown in the names of more than one member, the speaker calls the first name or in the absence the next name in the order in which they stand in the list.

## **Withdrawal or Postponement of Questions:**

A member may, by notice given at any time before the meeting for which his/her questions has been placed on the list, withdraw his/her question with the consent of the speaker, or postpone it to a later day to be specified in the notice. But the member should not seek postponement of his/her questions in any of the lists of the last three days of the meeting.

## **Supplementary Questions :**

Any member when called by the Speaker may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further educating any matter of act regarding which an answer has been given.









