# LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE
## ASSEMBLY ABSTRACT SERIES

25

# Reporting System


TELANGANA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
HYDERABAD

# PREFACE

This abstract containing the information pertaining to the **System of Reporting and Printing of House/ Committee Proceedings** 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.

**Dr. V. NARASIMHA CHARYULU,**
Secretary to State Legislature.

# REPORTING AND PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS

## Introduction:

Democracy is a system of governance through discussion and debate. The Parliamentary democracy of Westminster type which we have adopted in India survives by the spoken word. Thus the proceedings of the Legislature assumes utmost significance. They help administer the State effectively and enable the Executive to take decisions in the best interest of the people. The proceedings of the Legislature are also a source of contemporary history as the Hon. Members quote extensively from the previous proceedings of the House to prove their stand on a particular issue. This necessitates the importance of maintaining a

verbatim record of the deliberations that take place in the Legislature.

## Reporters Branch in Telangana Legislative Assembly:

On the pattern of Hansard in United Kingdom, the Reporters Branch in the Legislature maintains a verbatim record of everything said in the House. The Branch consists of Chief Reporter and Reporters of English, Telugu and Urdu languages. The Branch is equipped with the latest infrastructure, like computers with required software to ensure maximum speed and accuracy.

## Language of the House :

According to Article 210 of the Constitution of India, the Business of the House is to be transacted in the Official Language of the

State or in Hindi or in English. Telugu is the Official Language in the State of Telangana. Accordingly Rule 346 of the Rules of Procedure stipulates that the Business of the House shall be transacted in Telugu or English or in Urdu. A Member who cannot adequately express himself in the above languages can address the House in any other language with the permission of the Speaker.

## System of recording:

At any given point of time one Reporter from each of the above languages will be present in the House and take down the proceedings of the House in verbatim from its commencement to conclusion. The Chief Reporter compiles this verbatim record of the proceedings taken by the individual Reporters.

## Confirmation of speeches by members:

A copy of every speech delivered, question asked and interruption made by a member is furnished to him on the very next day for confirmation and making corrections, if any. Only minor corrections such as grammatical errors, misreporting of quotations, figures, names etc., is permissible. Improvement in literary form or altering substance by addition, substitution or deletion is not permissible. The member is required to confirm the same and return within 24 hours. While returning, the member should affix his signature for authentication. If the transcript is not received back from the member within the stipulated time, the reporter's copy is taken as final.

The corrections made by Members in the transcript copy of speeches sent to them for confirmation are carried out in the official record of the proceedings and an asterisk mark is placed before the name of the Member with a footnote " as confirmed by the Member"

## Editing and Expunction :

The Chief Reporter will go through the verbatim record of the proceedings and ensures that the proceedings are in accordance with the directions of the Speaker, the Rules of Procedure and the established Parliamentary practices.

During the course of the debates in the House, if the Speaker is of the opinion that words which are defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or undignified are used, he

may, in his discretion order that such word or words be expunged from the official record of the proceedings of the House. The Chief Reporter executes the orders of the Speaker and expunges those remarks from the official record of the proceedings and makes all consequential alterations. The portions of the proceedings so expunged are marked by asterisks and a footnote "Expunged as ordered by the Chair" is inserted.

## Printing & Publication :

After editing, a full record of proceedings of the House at each of its sittings is printed and published by the Secretary of the House in the form and manner as laid down by the Hon'ble Speaker. Each debate is a verbatim record of the proceedings in the House in first person, including Questions and Answers, both Oral and Written except the words and

expressions ordered to be expunged. This Debate then becomes a public document and can also be cited as an evidence in a court of law. One set of printed debates is supplied at free of cost to all Members.

## Reporting Legislature Committees:

The official Reporters also cover the meetings of Legislature Committees like Public Accounts Committee, Committee on Public Undertakings, Committee on Estimates and various other Committees. Depending upon the nature of business transacted in the Committee meetings, the proceedings will be either verbatim or a gist. The proceedings of these Committees furnished by the Reporters are treated as confidential until the Committee formulates its recommendations and presents its report to the Legislature.

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