

5

OTHER GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN PARLIAMENT

The following items *inter alia* constitute other Government Business (excluding Financial business):

MOTION MOVED BY MINISTER FOR DISCUSSION ON A MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

No discussion on a matter of general interest, except provided otherwise in the Constitution or the Rules of the respective Houses, can take place in the Houses except on a motion made with the consent of the Presiding Officer (Lok Sabha Rule 184, Rajya Sabha Rule 167). A motion may be in the form of a declaration of opinion or a recommendation; or it may be in the form so as to record approval or disapproval by the House of an act or policy of Government or to express concern or commend, to urge or request an action or to take note of a document or to consider a policy, statement or situation. Usually, notices are tabled in two forms: (i) the House takes note of a document, viz. report, statement, etc., laid on the Table of the House; and (ii) the House considers a policy or situation or statement or any other matter. The motions of the first type are submitted to the vote of the House at the end of the discussion and amendments seeking to approve or disapprove the report etc. can be moved thereto. The second type of motion is generally used when a policy or situation or statement or any other matter is to be taken into consideration. This category of motion is not put to the vote of the House at the close of the debate. However, if a Member, with the consent of the Presiding Officer, moves a substantive motion in substitution of the original motion, the vote of the House thereon is taken (Lok Sabha Rule 342).

The motion for discussion on a matter of general public

interest given by a Minister is treated as having been given under Rule 185 in the Lok Sabha and under Rule 168 in the Rajya Sabha. Normally, a motion moved by a Minister that the policy or situation or statement or any other matter be taken into consideration is not put to the vote of the House and is disposed of in a manner as laid down in the Lok Sabha Rule 342. The motion moved by a Minister that 'the House takes note of the report etc. laid on the Table of the House' is put to the vote of the House as provided in Lok Sabha Rule 191. In the Rajya Sabha, there is no Rule corresponding to Rule 342 in the Lok Sabha Rules and all the motions admitted in that House under Rule 168 are put to the vote of the House as provided for in Rajya Sabha Rule 173.

When a notice of a motion given by a Minister under the above Rules in the two Houses is admitted by the Presiding Officers, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs moves the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the concerned House for allocation of time for discussion on the motion. After the BAC has allotted the time, the motion is provided for discussion in that House on a day either convenient to the Government or as recommended by the BAC.

CONFIDENCE MOTION

Background

The Government seeking a vote of confidence of the House of the People is of recent origin. There is no rule in the Rules of Procedure relating to a Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers. The requirement of moving such motion was perhaps not visualised at the time of the framing of the Lok Sabha Rules. The necessity for debate through such a motion, which is in the nature of an exercise of demonstrating majority support in the Lok Sabha by the ruling party, arose in the late seventies with the advent of Governments obtaining a majority through splits in the political parties, and later on account of formation of coalition Governments as a result of hung Parliaments. In the absence of any rule in this regard, such Motions of Confidence have been entertained under the category of motions stipulated under Rule 184 which are meant for raising discussions on matters of public interest. Decisions on such motions are taken under Rule 191 by putting before the House all necessary questions.

Process

There is no requirement of seeking leave of the House as in the case of a No-Confidence Motion. The one line notice of motion (**Annex II-K**) has to be given by the Prime Minister. When admitted by the Speaker, it is bulletined. The date and time for its discussion and the time for putting the motion to vote in the House is normally decided in consultation with the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the House. After the BAC has made recommendations in this regard, the Ministry requests the Lok Sabha Secretariat to provide an entry in the List of Business of the House for discussion on the motion on the day(s) as recommended by the Committee. At the scheduled time on the given day, the Prime Minister moves the motion with a short speech. Thereafter, Members belonging to various parties/groups participate in the discussion. After the discussion on the motion has concluded, the Prime Minister replies to the debate. The motion is then put to the vote of the House and a decision is taken through the process of Division. If the motion is not adopted by the House, the Prime Minister has to tender the resignation of the Government which he heads.

Discussion on Statement made by Minister in the House

A statement on a matter of public importance on any subject, for which the Minister is responsible, can be made by the Minister with the consent of the Presiding Officer. In the Lok Sabha, the statement is made under Rule 372 read with direction 119 of the 'Directions by Speaker', and in the Rajya Sabha, the corresponding rule under which the statement can be made by a Minister is Rule 251. As per provisions of Rules of both the Houses, no question can be asked at the time the statement is made. However, by way of convention, Members of the Rajya Sabha are allowed to seek clarifications on a statement made by a Minister in that House, either at the time of making of the statement by the Minister or subsequently on any day during the session. If clarifications on a statement are not sought on the day the statement is made, an entry in the List of Business under the heading, "Clarifications on the statement made by the Minister for on.....regarding....." is also given by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat themselves and they

normally keep on making this entry until the clarifications have been sought by the Members. In the Lok Sabha, there is no such convention. However, the Speaker, in exceptional circumstances, may either allow Leaders of various parties/groups or only a limited number of Members of the House, to seek clarifications on the statement made by a Minister on an important issue.

Whenever any Member or Minister concerned is keen to have a discussion on a statement made by the Minister, he/she can give a notice of his/her intention to move the motion that the statement made by the Minister may be discussed by the House. If the motion so given is admitted by the Presiding Officer, the discussion on the statement is provided after the Business Advisory Committee has recommended time and day for its discussion. Such motions are normally admitted under Rule 193 in the Lok Sabha and Rule 176 in the Rajya Sabha. The motion given notice of by a Minister is considered as Government Business and, therefore, the Ministry is required to request the Parliament Secretariat concerned to include the discussion in the List of Business of the concerned House on a day convenient to the Government or as recommended by the BAC of the House.

RESOLUTIONS

A Member or a Minister may move a resolution relating to a matter of general public interest (Lok Sabha Rule 172, Rajya Sabha Rule 156). A resolution may be in the form of a declaration of opinion, or a recommendation or may be in the form so as to record either approval or disapproval by the House of an act or policy of the Government, or convey a message; or commend, urge or request an action; or call attention to a matter or situation for consideration by Government; or in such other form as the Presiding Officer may consider appropriate.

The three broad categories under which Government resolutions may be classified are: (i) resolutions approving international treaties, conventions, or agreements of which the Government is a party, (ii) resolutions declaring or approving certain policies of the Government; and (iii) resolutions approving recommendations of certain committees, viz., recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee.

A Minister may address the notice of the resolution sought to be moved by him/her in either House to the Secretary-General

of the concerned House. After the resolution has been admitted by the Presiding Officer, it is published in the Bulletin Part II of that House. Any Member can thereafter table notice(s) for moving amendment(s) to the resolution. Besides, after the resolution has been published in the Bulletin, the Ministry moves the BAC of the concerned House for allocation of time for discussion on the resolution. After the committee has allotted time for its discussion, the concerned Parliament Secretariat is requested to include the resolution for 'discussion and adoption' in the List of Business of that House for a day suitable to the Government. However, before the resolution is listed for consideration in the Order Paper of the House, the Minister concerned may ensure that all relevant documents and literature, wherever necessary, are circulated to the Members sufficiently in advance. The resolution can be taken up first in any House. It can also be taken up simultaneously in the two Houses provided it is not inconvenient to the Government. It is, therefore, not necessary that a message by one House regarding its adoption by that House should be sent to the other House. A copy of every resolution adopted by the House is sent by the Secretary-General of that House to the Minister concerned.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION SEEKING DISAPPROVAL OF ORDINANCES

Any Member of the House can give notice for moving a statutory resolution seeking disapproval of an Ordinance. Though it is not an item of Government Business, if, however, notice of a statutory resolution given notice of by a Member of the House seeking disapproval of an Ordinance is admitted by the Speaker, time has to be provided by the Government for discussion thereon. Not only time is to be provided by the Government for the purpose, an entry for its consideration, along with an entry for the consideration and passing of the Bill seeking to replace the Ordinance, after such Bill (if it is not already pending in either House even before promulgation of the Ordinance) has been introduced in either House, has also to be provided by the Ministry in the List of Business of the House where the resolution has been admitted.

PROCLAMATION ON FAILURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY IN A STATE (PRESIDENT'S RULE IN A STATE)

A Proclamation, issued by the President in respect of any State, under the provisions of article 356 of the Constitution, is required to be laid on the Table of the two Houses of Parliament. Along with the Proclamation, Government also generally lays on the Table of the Houses a summary of the Governor's report or the Governor's report *in extenso*, where the President has acted on such a report.

Article 356 (3) *inter alia* provides that such a Proclamation shall cease to operate at the expiration of two months from the date of its issue unless before the expiration of this period, it has been approved by resolutions of both Houses of Parliament. Therefore, if the Proclamation so issued is to be continued beyond two months, both the Houses of Parliament may have to approve it by a resolution. For this purpose, Government, after the Proclamation along with other requisite documents has been laid on the Table of the Houses, has to give a separate notice (**Annex V-A**) to the Secretary-Generals of the respective Houses indicating its intention to move a resolution seeking approval of the Proclamation by that House during the session following the promulgation of the Proclamation. After the allocation of time by the BAC of the respective Houses, the Ministry requests the two Secretariats to include the item regarding consideration of the resolution in the Lists of Business of the two Houses on a day either convenient to the Government or as recommended by the BACs. However, care should be taken to list the resolution in the two Houses sufficiently in advance of the expiry of the prescribed period of two months. There is no restriction in moving the resolution in any House first. There is also no restriction on the discussion on the resolution being taken up in the two Houses simultaneously unless it is inconvenient to the Government. The resolution has to be adopted by the Houses by a simple majority.

It has been held that an amendment to the resolution seeking to approve the President's Proclamation is out of order if the amendment is negative in character or is beyond the scope of the resolution, or is contradictory to the text of the resolution. An amendment seeking to give conditional approval to the

Proclamation is also inadmissible. A resolution seeking disapproval of the Proclamation is also inadmissible as there is no provision to this effect in article 356 of the Constitution. The House may adopt or not adopt a resolution as the resolution before the House cannot take any other form.

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY

Proclamation of Emergency issued under article of 352 of the Constitution has to be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. Such Proclamation ceases to operate at the expiration of one month unless before the expiration period it has been approved by resolutions of both Houses of Parliament. If any such Proclamation is issued at a time when the Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place during the period of one month and if a resolution approving the Proclamation has been passed by the Rajya Sabha, but no resolution with respect to such Proclamation has been passed by the Lok Sabha before the expiration of that period, the Proclamation ceases to operate at the expiration of thirty days from the date on which the Lok Sabha first sits after its reconstitution, unless before the expiration of the period of thirty days a resolution approving the Proclamation has been passed by the Lok Sabha.

When a notice in writing of a resolution seeking disapproval of a Proclamation or its continuance, signed by not less than one-tenth of the total number of Members of the Lok Sabha, has been given to the Speaker, if the Lok Sabha is in session, or, to the President, if it is not in session, a special sitting of the Lok Sabha shall be held within fourteen days from the date of receipt of the notice for considering the resolution. All resolutions for approval of or for further continuance of the Proclamation of Emergency may be passed by Parliament by a majority of the total membership and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting in each House.

The life of the Lok Sabha may, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, be extended beyond its normal period by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not exceeding in any case beyond a period of six months after the Proclamation has ceased to operate.

After the Proclamation of Emergency has been laid on the

Table of the House and time for its consideration has been allotted by the BAC, the Ministry may request the Lok Sabha Secretariat to include the resolution given notice of by the Government and admitted by the Speaker, in the List of Business of the House for consideration and passing. After it has been passed by the Lok Sabha, the Ministry takes action on the lines of procedure followed for listing in the Lok Sabha, to list the resolution for consideration and passing in the Rajya Sabha.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Background

Under article 87 of the Constitution, at the commencement of the First Session after each general election to the House of People and at the commencement of the First Session of each year, the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons.

Process

About two months in advance of the President's address, the Prime Minister's Office requests the Secretaries of all Ministries/Departments to furnish, by a specified date, information on the following items for inclusion in the President's address to be delivered in the ensuing Parliament session:

- (a) matters relating to Finance to be prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Finance;
- (b) matters relating to Ordinances promulgated during the inter-session period; and
- (c) matters relating to Legislative business together with the list of Bills proposed to be considered/introduced during the next session.

So far as the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is concerned, it is required to furnish necessary updated material, preferably in the form of a short statement in respect of the Ministry in general and on the above points in particular, to the PMO with a copy thereof to the Cabinet Secretariat, by a specified date. In order to obtain the information relating to various

Ministries/Departments in regard to item at (c) above, Secretaries of all the Ministries are addressed by the Ministry (**Annex V-B**) to furnish the requisite information for onward transmission to the PMO. On receipt of the information from the Ministries/Departments, it is consolidated and passed on to the PMO along with (i) the requisite information relating to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, if any; (ii) list of Ordinances promulgated, if any; and (iii) list of Bills pending on the conclusion of the last session of Parliament or the list of Bills pending on the dissolution of the last Lok Sabha.

On the occasion of the President's address, seats in the front rows in the Central Hall are reserved for the members of the Union Council of Ministers. In order to ensure that the seats reserved for Ministers do not remain vacant, the Ministry informally ascertains from the offices of the Ministers, as to whether they will attend the address. Names of Ministers, who are not in a position to attend the address, are intimated to the Lok Sabha Secretariat (Table Office) so that seats may not be reserved for them in the Central Hall.

Requisite number of copies of the President's address are made available to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs by the President's Secretariat on the morning of the day on which the President has to deliver his address to the Houses. After the President has addressed both Houses of Parliament, copies of the address are forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to all Central Ministries/Departments for information.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION OF THANKS

About ten to fifteen days in advance of the date of the address, a provisional programme of dates of discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the two Houses is chalked out. Normally, three to four days in the Lok Sabha and three days in the Rajya Sabha are provided for this purpose. After the programme has been approved by the Minister, it is communicated to the two Parliament Secretariats which bulletin it for the information of the Members.

Discussion on the Motion of Thanks in the two Houses is initiated by one of the Members, called mover, and seconded by another Member, who seconds the motion is called the seconder. Normally, the mover moves the motion in one language while

the seconder seconds the motion in the other language i.e. if the mover moves the motion in English, the seconder will second it in Hindi and *vice versa*. It has been the practice that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, in consultation with the Prime Minister, decides the names of the movers and seconders to the motion in the two Houses. The Members so decided have to sign the notice of the motion addressed to the Secretary-General of each House (**Annexes II-N & O**) which has to be given to the respective Houses after the copy of the President's Address has been laid in the two Houses. For this purpose, a note requesting the Minister to select the mover and seconder in each House is submitted about a week in advance of the President's address, along with (i) the names of the Members who moved and seconded the motion in the two Houses during the last five years; and (ii) the draft of the notice of motion to be moved in each House (in English and Hindi). After the Minister has selected the Members, the notices of motions are got signed by the respective Members by the Minister's office. On receipt of the file in the Legislative I Section, the notices of motions, in original, are forwarded at the level of the Under Secretary to the Table Offices in the two Secretariats for further necessary action. The discussion on the motion in the two Houses is provided by the Ministry on the dates already communicated to the two Secretariats. Where, however, it is not possible to provide discussion on those dates, efforts are made to chalk out the revised dates and, after the Minister's approval, communicate them to the Parliament Secretariat concerned for bulletining them for the information of the Members.

Decisions

President's Address

(i) The Fourteenth Session of the XIII Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on 23 December, 2003. The House was not prorogued thereafter and was reconvened to meet on 29 January, 2004. It was treated as the second part of the 14th Session as per past practice. However, a number of Members, through points of order, submitted in the House on 30 January, 2004 and 3 February, 2004 that the session which commenced on 29 January, 2004 was the First Session of the year 2004 and it should, therefore,

have been addressed by the President in terms of article 87 of the Constitution. In his ruling given in the House on 3 February, 2004, the Speaker, Lok Sabha *inter alia* observed that as per the provisions of the Constitution, a session of the House comes to an end when the House is prorogued and since the House was not prorogued after its adjournment *sine die* on 23 December, 2003, this session could, at best, be treated as the second part of the 14th Session of the XIII Lok Sabha notwithstanding the fact that the calendar year had since changed. The Speaker, therefore, ruled out the points of order on the issue (**Annex V-C**). On a writ petition (No.86/2004) filed on this issue by Shri Ramdas Athawale (Member of XIII Lok Sabha), the Supreme Court decided that.....

“..... Issue notice to learned Attorney General also. Learned Attorney General is present in Court. He seeks and is allowed four weeks time to obtain instructions. List after four weeks. However, it is clarified that the question shall have prospective bearing and not retrospective bearing in regard to dissolution of Parliament.”

(ii) On 6 March, 1991, while concluding his reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 21 February, 1991, the then Prime Minister stated that the Council of Ministers had decided to tender their resignation and that he would be meeting the President immediately to convey to him their decision. The Speaker, thereupon, observed that in view of the decision of the Council of Ministers to resign, the Motion of Thanks on the President's address had become infructuous.

(iii) After the swearing in of the United Front Government under Shri H.D. Devegowda as Prime Minister on 1 June, 1996, the Leader of the House and the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan held a meeting of Leaders of Political Parties and Groups in Parliament on 9 June, 1996 to discuss the point as to whether the Motion of Thanks admitted on 27 May, 1996 be taken up during the reconvened sitting of the Lok Sabha on 10 June, 1996. The consensus in the meeting was that there was no need at that stage to discuss the Motion of

Thanks on the President's address as the Motion of Thanks apparently had become infructuous. Therefore, the Motion on the President's address was not taken up for discussion during the reconvened session of the Lok Sabha on 10 June, 1996.

(F.No.20(1)/96-Leg.I)

(iv) During the Budget Session, 2000, it was decided that in future while furnishing information received from various Ministries/Departments on the subject, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs shall furnish a para containing a brief summary of the Government legislative proposals/programmes for that year to the Cabinet Secretariat for incorporation in the President's address.

Government's Prerogative to Provide Discussion on Proclamation Regarding President's Rule

On 4 March, 1999 in the Rajya Sabha, the Leader of Opposition Dr. Manmohan Singh, and others made submissions *inter alia* desiring to know when the discussion on the Proclamation under article 356 in relation to the State of Bihar will be provided in the Rajya Sabha. The Members submitted that the resolution on this subject had already been passed by the Lok Sabha and, therefore, Government should make its position clear as to when the discussion on the Proclamation will be provided in the Rajya Sabha. They also expressed a fear that the Government might bypass the Rajya Sabha in this respect.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam), who intervened during these submissions, assured the House that in no circumstances would Government ever go against the constitutional provisions or political decorum. He further stated that on 8 March, 1999 the Government would inform the House as to what steps it proposed to take in the matter. However, the Members continued to make submissions on the subject and requested the Chair to give its ruling in the matter. In this connection, the Hon'ble Chairman gave the following ruling:

"Hon'ble member, the basic issue is this. It has come up earlier also in the House and my distinguished predecessor, Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, on 4th November, 1986 had given his ruling and it is nearly the same as my ruling. He had said:

‘You are aware that if the Government does not want to have the proclamation approved, they need not move the Resolution. And if they do not move the Resolution, the proclamation lapses. Therefore, there is nothing for discussion. It is only when the proclamation is continued that there is something for discussion in the House. When the Government is not coming forward with the proclamation, and if it lapses, there will be nothing for discussion. It is for the Government to decide. We cannot force the Government to decide just now. It is their right to decide’.”

Statutory Resolution Seeking Disapproval of an Ordinance Adopted

(i) On 5 August, 1991, the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 and the motion for consideration of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1991 were moved by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, MP, a Member of the ruling party, and Shri S.B. Chavan, Minister of Home Affairs, respectively. After a brief discussion, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia replied to the debate on the resolution and Shri S.B. Chavan, Minister of Home Affairs while intervening in the debate requested Shri S.S. Ahluwalia to withdraw the resolution. However, Shri Ahluwalia did not withdraw the resolution. Accordingly, the resolution was put to vote. Thirty nine votes each were cast in favour and against the resolution. In such a situation, the Chair, in terms of article 100 of the Constitution, exercised his casting vote in favour of the Statutory Resolution. Accordingly, the Statutory Resolution was adopted by 40 to 39 votes and further consideration and passing of the Bill was not proceeded with.

However, the above Bill was again introduced in the Rajya Sabha during the next session, viz., 160th Session, on 3 September, 1991. At the time of its introduction, some Members from the Opposition benches opposed the introduction of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Second Amendment) Bill, 1991, stating that the Bill was disapproved by the House in the 159th Session. The Chair overruled the objection and thereafter the Bill was introduced. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 4 September, 1991 and by the Lok Sabha on 17 September, 1991

and was assented to by the President on 19 September, 1991.

(ii) On 7 August, 1997, the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Presidential and Vice Presidential Election (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997, moved by Shri Satish Aggarwal and motion for consideration of the Presidential and Vice Presidential Election (Amendment) Bill, 1997 moved by the Minister of State for Law and Justice were together taken up for discussion in the Rajya Sabha. After a brief discussion, the Statutory Resolution was put to vote and was adopted by the House. As a result of this further consideration and passing of the Bill was not proceeded with.

With a view to replace the Ordinance by an Act of Parliament, the above Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12 August, 1997 i.e. during the same Parliament session, as the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997. The Bill was considered and passed by the Lok Sabha on 13 August, 1997. This Bill could not have been taken up in the Rajya Sabha in the same session in the normal circumstances in view of the provisions of the Rule 228 of the Rajya Sabha Rules which *inter alia* provides that a motion must not raise a question substantially identical with one on which the Council has given a decision in the same session. Thereafter, on a motion moved by the Minister of Law and Justice, the Rule 228 in its application to the above Bill was suspended and the Bill was thereafter considered and passed by the Rajya Sabha on 14 August, 1998.

(iii) On 21 March, 2002, the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Prevention of Terrorism (Second) Ordinance, 2001 moved by Shri Kapil Sibal and the motion moved by the Minister of Home Affairs for consideration of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002 as passed by the Lok Sabha, were taken up together for discussion in the Rajya Sabha. After reply to the debate by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Statutory Resolution was put to the vote of the House and was adopted after division (Ayes 113, Noes 98). After the Statutory Resolution was adopted, the motion for consideration of the Bill was put to the vote of the House and was negatived after division (Ayes 98, Noes 113).

As the Prevention of Terrorism (Second) Ordinance, 2001 would have lapsed on 8 April, 2002 if not replaced by an Act of Parliament on or before the above date in terms of article 123 of the Constitution, it was decided to convene a Joint Sitting of the

two Houses in terms of article 108 of the Constitution on 26 March, 2002 for deliberation and voting on the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002 as passed by the Lok Sabha and rejected by the Rajya Sabha. The Bill was deliberated, during the Joint Sitting held on 26 March, 2002. On the motion for consideration for the purpose of deliberating on the Bill, the Division took place (Ayes: 425; Noes: 294). The motion for consideration was accordingly adopted. Thereafter, the motion moved by Minister of Home Affairs that the Bill be passed was adopted and the Bill was passed.

Discussion on the Working of Ministries in Rajya Sabha

During the second part of the Budget Sessions, a few sittings in the Rajya Sabha are devoted to discussion on working of some of the Ministries as recommended by the Business Advisory Committee of the House. Normally, discussion on the working of Ministries is taken up in the Rajya Sabha during more or less the same period when the Lok Sabha is busy with discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (General) of Ministries/Departments. With a view to selecting the Ministries/Departments for this purpose, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, convenes a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, Rajya Sabha, during the last week of the first part of the Budget Session. Keeping in view the time (days) likely to be available for this purpose, the committee decides the number and names of Ministries/Departments whose working can be discussed by the House during the second part of the Budget Session to be held after recess and also allots time for discussion on the working of such Ministries/Departments. In the meeting, the names of various parties/groups, whose Members may initiate the discussion on the working of various Ministries selected for this purpose, are also decided. Sometimes, date(s) of discussion. Such Ministries/Departments and the order in which they should be taken up for discussion is also decided in the meeting.

As soon as the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee about the names of Ministries/Departments to be discussed are announced in the House or the minutes of the meeting are received in the Ministry, the Ministries/Departments concerned are informed in order to enable them to make necessary preparation for the purpose in advance and also to ensure that

the Minister concerned may make it convenient to remain present in the House on the probable date of discussion of his/her Ministry.

Discussion on the working of Ministries is included in the List of Business of the Rajya Sabha for the days and in the order in which it is intimated by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat through daily Lists of Government Business. When this item comes for discussion in the House, the Member, in whose name the item is listed in the List of Business, is called by the Chair to initiate the discussion. After such a Member has made his speech, few other Members, who have given their names for participation in the debate, are called to speak. Minister concerned replies to the debate at the end. With this, the discussion on the working of a Ministry is over. There is no voting by the House on this item.

CHECK LIST

A check list indicating steps to be taken at various stages for transaction of other Government Business in two Houses is at **Annex V-D**.