

No.7817

Question Branch

### **Confidentiality of answers to questions**

Members are informed that the contents of reply made in response to a question is strictly confidential until the Question for Oral Answer has actually been asked and answered in the House. In case the question has not reached for oral answer, the reply to the Question should not be released till the conclusion of Question Hour. Questions included in the lists of written answers are also to be treated as confidential until the same have been laid on the Table of the House after the Question Hour is over. A reply to a question is treated as final, only in the form, in which it appears in the proceedings of the House, for a particular date.

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No. 7818

Question Branch

### **Short Notice Questions**

Rule 54(1) of the “Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha” provides as follows:-

“A question relating to a matter of public importance may be asked with notice shorter than ten clear days and the Speaker, if, is of opinion that the question is of an urgent character, may direct that an enquiry may be made from the Minister concerned, if such Minister is in a position to reply and, if so, on what date.”

2. Further, Rule 54(5) of Rules ibid also provides as follows:

“Where a Member desires an oral answer to a question at a shorter notice, such member shall briefly state the reasons for asking the question with short notice. Where no reasons have been assigned in the notice of the question, the question shall be returned to the Member.”

3. Members are, therefore, requested to indicate in the appropriate column of the notice form, the reasons as to why the question is being asked at a short notice. A general statement that the matter is of “wider public importance” or “public interest” is not sufficient, for this purpose.

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No. 7819

Question Branch

### **e-filing of Notices of Questions**

As Members are aware, at present under the provisions of „Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha“, every notice is required to be given in writing and signed and the same should be submitted in Parliamentary Notice Office. As an initiative towards e-Parliament and paperless Secretariat, an e-portal namely Members' Portal was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 for the benefit of the Members. This portal is offering several online services to the Members including submission of notices for various parliamentary devices in electronic form, online references, etc.

**In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, Members are requested to submit their notices of Questions through Members' Portal** in accordance with Bulletin Part-II Para No.3739 dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2016. However, the Parliamentary Notice Office will continue to receive physical notices from Members who choose to submit the same.

Kind cooperation of Members is solicited.

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