

CHAPTER VIII

Half-an-hour Discussion

49. Discussion on a matter of public importance arising out of answer to a question.— (1) The Speaker shall allot half-an-hour for raising discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent question, oral or written, and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact.

(2) A member wishing to raise a matter shall give notice in writing to the Secretary three days in advance of the day on which the matter is desired to be raised, and shall briefly specify the point or points that he wishes to raise: Provided that the notice shall be accompanied by an explanatory note stating the reasons for raising discussion on the matter in question: Provided further that the notice shall be supported by the signatures of at least two other members:

Provided further also that the Speaker may with the consent of the Minister concerned waive the requirement concerning the period of notice.

(3) The Speaker shall decide whether the matter is of sufficient public importance to be put down for discussion, and may not admit a notice which, in his opinion, seeks to revise the policy of Government.

(4) If more than two notices have been received and admitted by the Speaker, the Secretary, shall hold a ballot with a view to draw two notices and the notices shall be put down in the order in which they were received in point of time:

Provided that if any matter put down for discussion on a particular day is not disposed of on that day, it shall not be set down for any other day, unless the member so desires, in which case it shall be included in the ballot for the next available day.

(5) There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting. The member who has given notice may make a brief statement and the Minister concerned shall reply briefly. Any member who has previously intimated to the Speaker may be permitted to ask a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact:

Provided that if the member who has given notice is absent, any member who has supported the notice may, with the permission of the Speaker, initiate the discussion.