



Origin of Questions in the Indian Parliamentary System

Dr. Shriji Seth
H.OD. Political Science
SSSWC, BHOPAL

***Research paper published** under the support of ICSSR and MHRD (IMPRESS Scheme)

Abstract

Question is one of the important Parliamentary devices available to the Members to seek information on a matter of urgent public importance subject to conditions imposed by the Rules of Procedure, Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, and the Directions by the Speaker. A Member may ask questions for the purpose of obtaining information on a subject matter of public importance within the special cognizance of the minister to whom it is addressed.

The first hour of a sitting session of India's Lok Sabha is devoted to questions raised by Members of Parliament about any aspect of administrative activity. The Minister in question is required to respond to the Parliament, either orally or in writing, depending on the nature of the question raised.

Keywords: - Questions, Lok Sabha, Parliament, Conduct of Business

"As an official, it is the right of the Member to pose inquiries and to consider the Government answerable. Question Hour is an extreme test, a trial by fire for the Hon'ble Minister".

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi

A question is a parliamentary contraption for trying to find statistics on a topic of open significance in the express view of the Government. In any case, extra often the people have positive prescience and the real goal in the back of seeking out records is to press for pastime or function delay, wastefulness, waste, negligence, and demonstrations of exclusion and fee of the Government. Every inquiry, thusly, hangs a change story. The no different parliamentary tool is as adaptable and beneficial in its corporation and attains as a straightforward, innocent searching inquiry. It is in acknowledgment of the dependable adequacy of inquiries and as a probably beneficial asset of oversight and duty that, besides if coordinated something else, the primary hour of every sitting of Parliament, referred to as a Question Hour, is reserved for posing and noting inquiries.

Rules 32 Question Hour-Unless the Speaker regardless immediate, the essential hour of each session will live open for presenting and answer of requests. Which means and degree -To address intends to enquire or to question. Questions are typically routed to one who is capable or expected to have the option to reply. The reason for existing is to inspire data through reaction or answer.

Frequently, individuals can pinpoint the managerial passes and concentrate on certain data and affirmations or even responsibilities from the administration which might be humiliating and badly designed for the government.

The choice to bring out information from the central government by strategies for questions was unequivocally given up to the Indian people from the Imperial managerial chamber unprecedented for 1892 under the Indian board's exhibition of 1892. This benefit was needy upon explicit conditions of the appropriateness and no discussion was permitted in respect of an answer given to a request. the accompanying stage in the progression of the request philosophy was conveyed with the encompassing of rules, under the Indian Council act, 1909 when the game plan was made for the presenting of beneficial requests. Another enormous stage in the improvement of the request framework went with the coming into the intensity of the Montague Chelmsford changes of 1919 when the essential force of the social event of Council was made for presenting requests. The preparation continues. The able utilization of this methodology by watchful individuals has prompted inquiries by the administration into issues concerning the infringement of Statutes, misbehavior, and abuse of open assets.

A portion of the more significant instances of this nature which became visible incorporate the Jeep embarrassment, in 1951, the Mundhra bargain in 1957, the import permit case in 1974, and the inquiry into the Steel bargain and the utilization of hamburger and fat in the Vanaspati case.

Box-1

Mundhra scandal

India's supreme first major budgetary stunt was revealed during the second Lok Sabha when Feroze Gandhi investigated the record administration concerning the government had Life Insurance Corporation's unapproved hypothesis into Haridas Mundhra's associations. It at long last realized the abandonment of the then cash Minister T. T. Krishnamacharya.

*Puducherry permits embarrassment

In 1974, during the fifth Lok Sabha, a grant humiliation was revealed during question hour. A notification as far as anyone knows set apart by 21 MPs was introduced by vendors of Pondicherry to the Union Commerce Ministry to yield licenses for acquiring various things. The imprints were delivered on the order of Indira Gandhi's key assistant, Lalit Narain Mishra

*Old name Pondicherry

Each sitting is allotted 60 minutes for presenting and responding to requests. To respond to requests in the house, the Ministries or departments of the administration of India have been divided into five social affairs that

are allotted five days a week, and the Ministers concerned answer- questions by turn on the day set for their administrations or offices.

The right to ask questions in Parliament is an inherent and essential right of members in A parliamentary democratic setup. since the government is accountable to Parliament and Parliament is the grand In Quest of the nation the member asks a question minister to seek information, press for action, make a point on behalf of their constituents, pursue National policy scrutiny, to bring government stand on record on a particular issue where there is inconsistency or speculations, etc. However, the procedure for asking the question over a long period of time is disconnected in response to the problem that was faced.

Charter Act of 1853

The first Legislative Council was formed under the Charter act of 1853. The Charter Act did not define the powers of the Legislative Council however the Council begin to follow the procedure of the house of commons, U.K. the Legislative Council shows some degree of Independence by allowing asking of portions, per meeting discussion on the property of the measures of the executive Government and then came into constant conflict with the executive

The first recorded question was put to a Minister in the British House of Lords in 1721 and in the house of commons in 1835.

Indian Council Act 1892

The Indian council's act of 1892 gave the members of the Indian Council the right of asking questions on matters of public interest subject to such conditions and restrictions as were to be prescribed in rules made by the Governor-General- in - Council.

The rules framed under this act laid down that a member who wishes to ask the question should give at least 6 clear days' notice in writing to the secretary in the legislative department. The president of the Council could allow a question to be asked with notice shorter than 6 clear days and might in any case require longer notice, if he thought fit, or extend the time for answering a question if the necessary

First Question in Legislative Council dated on 16- 2- 1893 asked by Maharaja of Bhinga

Box -2

The First Question

The principal query was asked in the administrative gatherings, constitute under the Indian Council act, 1892 on 16 February 1893. Raja Udai Pratap Singh of Being draws the consideration of administration those to difficulty caused to the rustic individuals because of the weight of enormous contingents of officials on a visit. The cultivators and the town businesspeople needed to make arrangements per power for the income official on visit .in the UK; it is by and large idea that the main recorded inquiry was posed in the place of the ruler in 1721.

During the period somewhere in the range between 1893 and 1909, each of the 217 sittings was held and 268 inquiries were posed and replied to. the inquiries were not many and many long sittings had no inquiry at everything except a foreboding start had been made.

Appraisals of Questions Asked During 1893- -1909

As stated at the outset the evolution of portion procedure was gradual with the scope of oceans widening steadily with the growing power of the Legislature and the increasing consequences of the legislators as to its efficiency. the period between 1893 and 1909 witnessed develop of significant uses, which prove subsequently, the Bedrock of well-established parliamentary traditions.

Reference: -

1. Indian Constitutional Documents, Banerji, Anil Chandra (ed.); Vol. I am, p. xxvi.
2. Rules for the Conduct of Business in the Legislative Council, framed under the Indian Councils Act, 1892
3. Manual of Business and Procedure in the Legislative Assembly (1926Ed.),
4. Vide Report of Rules Committee laid on 23 August 1984. Previously, the maximum number of questions was fixed at 200 vide its meeting held on 28 August 1968.
5. Manual on Business and Procedure (1989 Ed.), pp. 222-23, Note XIV
6. Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business Lok Sabha. , Lok Sabha Secretariat.
7. The Indian Parliament, Beyond the Seal and Signature of Democracy, Devender Singh, First Edition, 2016
8. Speech of Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi, (2015), M.P. and Chairman Estimate Committee Lok Sabha while releasing the book "Parliamentary Question: -Glorious Beginning to an Uncertain Future", page 26-28.
9. Devender Singh (2015) "Parliamentary Questions: - Glorious Beginning to an Uncertain Future" Orange books International.
10. L.A. Deb., 1-2-1924, p. 32. 31. The revised procedure came into force on from 15 April 1937.