



STANDING ORDERS
OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

(As amended up to February 26, 1993)



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(First Edition, 1977)

This edition reproduces the Standing Orders adopted with effect from 1st May, 1979 by Resolution of Parliament as the Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, incorporating the amendments which were subsequently passed by Parliament. The footnotes below the text indicate the particular amendments made to the Standing Orders.

Secretary-General of Parliament.

Parliament of Sri Lanka,
Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte.

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STANDING ORDERS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA AFTER A GENERAL ELECTION

1. On the first day of a meeting of Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (hereinafter called "Parliament") after a general election, members having assembled at the time and place duly appointed and being seated in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 2 the Secretary-General of Parliament (hereinafter called the "Secretary-General") shall read the Proclamation of the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (hereinafter called the "President") by which the meeting was summoned and thereafter the Order of Business on such day shall be -

(a) election of Speaker.

(b) Official Oath or Affirmation by Mr. Speaker and then by all the members present.

(c) election of Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees (hereinafter called the "Deputy Speaker").

(d) election of Deputy Chairman of Committees,

and on the conclusion of such business Parliament shall stand adjourned to the date and time fixed by Parliament.

SEATING OF MEMBERS

2. (1) On the first day of the meeting of Parliament after a general election and thereafter until a seat has been allotted to each member, members may sit in any seat within the Bar.

(2) As soon as he thinks fit after his election Mr. Speaker shall allot a seat to every member and may vary such allotment from time to time as he may think fit.

(3) Seats shall be allotted at the discretion of Mr. Speaker whose decision thereon shall be final.

ELECTION OF A SPEAKER

3. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of Speaker, whether as the result of a dissolution of Parliament or otherwise, Parliament shall, at its first meeting after the occurrence of the vacancy, when a quorum is present, proceed to elect a Speaker.

4. The procedure for the election of a Speaker shall be as follows:-

(1) Every member who wishes to propose a member for election as Speaker shall ascertain previously that, that member is willing to serve if elected.

(2) A member addressing himself to the Secretary-General shall propose some other member then present to Parliament for its Speaker, and move "That....(naming the member) do take the Chair of this Parliament as Speaker". The proposal shall be seconded, but no debate shall be allowed.

(3) If only one member be so proposed and seconded as Speaker he shall be declared by the Secretary-General without question put, to have been elected. If more than one member be so proposed and seconded Parliament shall, after the division bells are rung for two minutes, proceed to elect a Speaker by ballot.

(4) For the purpose of a ballot the Secretary-General shall give to each member present a ballot paper on which the member may write the name of the member for whom he wishes to vote. Ballot papers shall be folded so that the name written thereon shall not be seen and shall be signed by the member voting.

(5) Ballot papers shall be collected by the Secretary-General, or by some officer of Parliament deputed by him, and shall be counted by the Secretary-General, at the Table of Parliament. The result of the ballot shall be declared by the Secretary-General.

(6) (a) Where more than two candidates have been proposed and at the first ballot no candidate obtains more votes than the aggregate votes obtained by the other candidates, the candidate who has obtained the smallest number of votes shall be excluded from the election and balloting shall proceed, the candidate obtaining the smallest number of votes at each ballot being excluded until one candidate obtains more votes than the remaining candidate or the aggregate votes of the remaining candidates, as the case may be.

(b) Where at any ballot among three or more candidates two or more obtain an equal number of votes and one of them has to be excluded from the election under clause (a) above, the determination, as between the candidates whose votes are equal, of the candidate to be excluded, shall be by lot which shall be drawn in such manner as the Secretary-General shall decide.

(c) Where at any ballot between two candidates the votes are equal, another ballot shall be held and at the end of such other ballot, if the votes are still equal the candidate to be excluded shall be determined by lot which shall be drawn in such manner as the Secretary-General shall decide.

(7) As the ballot papers are counted they shall be placed in a box and, when a member has been declared elected as Speaker, the box shall be sealed in the presence of Parliament and kept in the custody of the Secretary-General for one calendar month and then, subject to any direction he may receive from Parliament, the Secretary-General shall burn the ballot papers and certify to Parliament that this has been done.

OFFICIAL OATH OR AFFIRMATION

5. (1) Having taken the Official Oath, or having made the Official Affirmation, Mr. Speaker shall cause the said Oath or Affirmation to be administered to and signed by all members present. The Oath or Affirmation shall be administered by the Secretary-General.

(2) Every member starting with Mr. Speaker shall, immediately after having taken the Oath or having made the Affirmation, sign the book to be kept for that purpose by the Secretary-General.

(3) On any day on which Parliament sits, a member who has not previously taken the Oath or made the Affirmation may present himself at the Table at the time appointed under Standing Order 19 and thereupon the said Oath or Affirmation shall be administered to him and he shall sign the book.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

6. (1) At the first sitting of a newly elected Parliament as laid down in Standing Order 1 or at the commencement of Public Business at the first meeting of Parliament after the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of Deputy Speaker or of Deputy Chairman of Committees, Parliament shall proceed to the election of a Deputy Speaker or Deputy Chairman of Committees, as the case may be.

(2) The procedure for the election of a Deputy Speaker and a Deputy Chairman of Committees shall be as nearly as may be the same as that for the election of a Speaker, save that the elections shall be conducted by Mr. Speaker.

MEETINGS

*7. [(1) Unless Parliament otherwise decides, Parliament shall meet in two alternate weeks in each month commencing after the first Sunday of each month and shall sit on the Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of the first and the third of such weeks.

* Original deleted and substituted by the eleventh amendment to Standing Orders January 8, 1985 and thereafter deleted and substituted by the twenty-third amendment to Standing Orders, September 6, 1989.

(2) The sitting of Parliament shall commence at 9.00 a.m. ;

Provided that a meeting summoned by the President shall begin at such hour as the President may fix in giving notice thereof.

(3) The proceedings on any business under consideration at 12.00 noon, unless Parliament otherwise decides, be interrupted without question put, and shall be resumed at 1.30 p.m.

(4) Mr. Speaker shall adjourn Parliament at 4.30 p.m without question put.

(5) At 3.30 p.m the proceedings on any business then under consideration shall be interrupted ; and if Parliament be in Committee, the Chairman shall leave the Chair and make his report to Parliament, and if a motion has been proposed for the adjournment of Parliament, or of the debate, or in Committee that the Chairman do report progress or do leave the Chair, every such dilatory motion shall lapse without question put :

Provide always that on the interruption of business, the closure may be moved under Standing Order 41 and, if moved, or if proceedings under that Standing Order be then in progress, Mr. Speaker or the Chairman shall not leave the Chair until the question consequent thereon and on any further motion as provided in that Standing Order has been decided.

(6) After the business under consideration at 3.30 p.m has been disposed of, no business which may be opposed by any member shall be taken.]

****8.** [A motion may be made by a Minister of the Cabinet at the commencement of Public Business, to be decided without amendment or debate to the following effect:-

“that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted at this day’s sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 7”, and if such a motion be agreed to, the business so specified shall not be interrupted if it is under discussion at the time fixed for interruption of business and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed :

Provided that then the business exempted from the operation of this Order is disposed of after 4.30 p.m Mr. Speaker shall, immediately after the conclusion of the last item of exempted business, adjourn Parliament without question put.]

^{**} Original deleted and substituted by the twelfth amendment to Standing Orders January 8, 1985 and thereafter deleted and substituted by the twenty fourth amendment to Standing Orders September 6, 1989.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

9. (1) The Secretary-General shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of Parliament and of Committees of the whole Parliament and shall circulate a copy of such minutes, if possible, on the day following the meeting of Parliament. The minutes shall record the names of members attending, and all decisions of Parliament.

(2) In the case of divisions of Parliament or of a Committee of the whole Parliament the minutes shall include the numbers voting for and against the question and where the division takes place under Standing Order 42, the names of the members so voting and the number and names of those declining to vote.

(3) The minutes shall not require confirmation but errors in the minutes may be corrected, on motion made, with the leave of Parliament.

(4) The Secretary-General shall prepare from day to day and keep on the Table of Parliament and in the Library an Order Book showing all business appointed for any future day and any notice of questions or motions which have been set down for a future day whether for a day named or not.

(5) Business may be set down for any particular day and a note to that effect made in the Order Book.

(6) The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the safe custody of minutes, records, Bills and other documents laid before Parliament which shall be open to inspection by Members of Parliament and by other persons under such arrangements as may be sanctioned by Mr. Speaker.

QUORUM

10. The quorum of Parliament required by Article 73 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is twenty members including the person presiding. If at any time the attention of Mr. Speaker or other person presiding is directed to the fact that a quorum is not present he shall order the division bells to be rung and if at the expiration of five minutes a quorum be not present he shall adjourn Parliament without question put.

11. The quorum of a Committee of the whole Parliament shall be twenty. If the absence of a quorum be noticed in Committee of the whole Parliament the Chairman shall proceed in the manner prescribed in the preceding Order and if a quorum be not present he shall leave the Chair and, Parliament being resumed, shall forthwith count Parliament. If a quorum be not then present Parliament shall adjourn as provided in the preceding Order but if a quorum be proved to be present Parliament shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee.

PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENT

*12. [The Business of Parliament shall be conducted in Sinhala, Tamil and English. Any speech made in Parliament shall be recorded in the Official Report of Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) in the language in which it was spoken. It shall be the duty of Mr. Speaker to make suitable arrangements for those members who do not understand such language.

These arrangements will include –

- (1) The Order Paper to be published in Sinhala, Tamil and English.
- (2) Simultaneous interpretation of speeches and other proceedings into the other two languages.
- (3) The front cover of the Official Report of Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) to be printed in Sinhala, Tamil and English.
- (4) Speeches to be recorded in the Official Report of Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) in the language, in which they are made, with the name of the speaker entered in Sinhala, Tamil and English.]

ADJOURNMENTS

13. An adjournment of Parliament shall mean an adjournment till the next ordinary sitting day unless Parliament on a motion made after notice has ordered an adjournment to some other definite date. A motion to adjourn *sine die* will not be entertained.

14. During an adjournment of more than forty-eight hours duration Mr. Speaker if so requested by the Prime Minister, shall give notice convening Parliament for such date being an earlier date than to which Parliament had adjourned as may be contained in the request and thereupon Parliament shall meet on the date and at the time specified in Mr. Speaker's notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that date and time. When issuing such a notice Mr. Speaker shall take all practicable steps to acquaint members with the date and time for which Parliament has been convened.

DILATORY MOTIONS

15. When a motion is made for the adjournment of a debate, or of Parliament during any debate, or that the Chairman of a Committee of the whole Parliament do report progress, or do leave the Chair, the debate thereupon shall be confined to the matter of such motion, and no member having moved or seconded any such motion shall be entitled to move, or second, any similar motion during the same debate.

16. If Mr. Speaker, or other presiding member, or the Chairman of a Committee of the whole Parliament, shall be of opinion that a motion for the adjournment of a debate, or of Parliament, during any debate, or that the Chairman do report progress, or do leave the Chair, is an abuse of the rules of Parliament, he may forthwith put the question thereupon from the Chair, or he may decline to propose the question thereupon to Parliament.

* Original deleted and substituted by the twenty eighth amendment to Standing Orders February 26, 1993.

ADJOURNMENT ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

*17. (1) A Motion for the adjournment of Parliament shall not be made until Public Business has been entered upon (except by a Minister of the Cabinet) unless a member rises in his place at the end of questions and asks leave to move the adjournment of Parliament, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and state the matter.

(2) Such a motion by a member shall not be made unless—

- (a) written notice of such motion is given to Mr. Speaker before the commencement of the sitting on the day on which the motion is proposed to be made and his consent obtained ; and
- (b) the member obtains the leave of Parliament ; or
- (c) the leave of Parliament not having been given, not fewer than twenty members rise in their places to support him :

Provided where Mr. Speaker has refused his consent or is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is not in order, he may allow the member raising the question to read the notice of the motion and thereafter Mr. Speaker shall state the reason for refusing consent or holding the motion as being not in order.

** [(3) If the motion is so supported or Parliament gives leave, it shall stand over until 2.30 p.m.]

(4) Leave shall not be sought for more than one such motion on any one day.

†* [(5) On days on which Government Business has precedence, no motion for the adjournment of Parliament, other than a motion made under the provisions of this Order, shall be moved between the items of business set down for that day before 3.30 p.m. unless such motion be moved by a Minister of the Cabinet.]

STRANGERS

18. (1) "Strangers" may be present in the Chamber in places set apart for them under such rules as Mr. Speaker may make for that purpose.

(2) If at any sitting of Parliament, or in Committee, any member shall take notice that strangers are present Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman (as the case may be), shall forthwith put the question "That strangers be ordered to withdraw" without permitting any debate or amendment :

Provided that Mr. Speaker or the Chairman may, whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of strangers from any part of the Chamber.

* Original deleted and substituted by the thirteenth amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

† Amended by the twenty fifth amendment to Standing Orders, September 6, 1989.

Provided further that the Attorney-General or his representative who is present in Parliament in the performance of his duties under Article 77 of the Constitution will not be deemed a stranger.

(3) Mr. Speaker may grant a general permission to the representative or representatives of any news-media to attend the sitting of Parliament. Such permission may be revoked if the news-media makes a report of the proceedings which Mr. Speaker considers unfair.

BUSINESS OF PARLIAMENT

***19. [The Business of Parliament shall be transacted in the following order :-**

- (1) Official oath or Affirmation by new member.
- (2) Messages from the President.
- (3) Announcements by Mr. Speaker.
- (4) Presentation of Papers.
- (5) Presentation of Reports from Committees.
- (6) Petitions.
- (7) Questions.
- (8) Votes of condolence.
- (9) Motions for leave of absence.
- (10) Ministerial statements.
- (11) Personal explanations.
- (12) Questions of privilege.
- (13) Motions at the commencement of Public Business not requiring notice.
- (14) Motions at the commencement of Public Business for which notice is required.
- (15) Public Business.]

PUBLIC BUSINESS

20. (1) Public Business shall consist of Orders of the Day and Notices of Motions.

(2) An Order of the Day is a Bill or other matter which Parliament has ordered to be taken into consideration upon a particular day. An earlier day cannot be substituted for the day so appointed.

(3) Government Business shall have precedence on every day except the first Friday sitting of each month.

* Original deleted and substituted by the fourth amendment to Standing Orders,
November 3, 1981.

(4) On the first Friday sitting of each month a motion may be made by a Minister of the Cabinet without notice at the commencement of Public Business to be decided without amendment or debate to the effect that "Government Business have precedence this day" or that "a specified item of Government Business have precedence this day" and if such motion be carried Government Business or the specified item of Government Business shall have precedence accordingly.

(5) Government Business shall be set down in such order as the Government think fit.

(6) Unless Parliament otherwise order, on the first Friday sitting of each month Private Members' Business shall have precedence over Government Business and Notices of Motions shall have precedence over Orders of the Day.

(7) Unless a member giving notice of a Private Member's motion indicates his desire to have such motion fixed for a particular Private Members' day all Private Members' motions shall be fixed for the next available Private Members' day and all such motions shall be taken in the order in which they appear in the Order Paper.

21. All Orders of the Day undisposed of at the adjournment of Parliament shall be postponed until the next sitting day without a motion to that effect, and all Notices of Motions not disposed of shall, in the absence of any specific instruction by the member in whose name the notice stands, be carried forwarded to the next sitting day if standing in the name of a Minister or Deputy Minister and to the first Friday sitting of the following month if standing in the name of a private member.

PAPERS

22. (1) Papers shall be presented only by Mr. Speaker, a Minister or a Deputy Minister.

(2) The presentation of all Papers shall be entered in the Minutes.

(3) A short explanatory statement of the contents of any Paper may be made on its presentation, but no debate shall take place at the time of presentation.

(4) All Papers presented shall be deemed to have been ordered to lie upon the Table and any motion for the printing thereof shall be determined without amendment or debate.

NOTICES

23. (1) Notice of questions or motions shall be given in writing, signed by the member giving the notice and addressed to the Secretary-General. Such notices may be handed to the Secretary-General at any time when Parliament is sitting or may be sent to or left at the Office of the Secretary-General at any time.

(2) All questions, of which notice has been received by the Secretary-General shall, unless Mr. Speaker rules the question out of order, be included in the Order Book for answer on a day not earlier than seven clear days from the day on which the notice was given:

Provided, however, a question relating to a matter of public importance may be asked at the conclusion of questions by the Leader of the Opposition or a leader of a recognized political party after due notice has been given to the Minister concerned.

(3) All motions, of which notice has been received by the Secretary-General, shall unless Mr. Speaker rules the motion out of order, be included in the Order Book, but unless Parliament otherwise order, no debate thereon shall take place unless five clear days have elapsed since the notice was given. Notwithstanding anything in this paragraph, notices of motions to be moved at the commencement of Public Business shall be included in the Order Paper if received at the Table on the previous sitting day.

(4) No debates shall take place on the giving of notice of any matter.

(5) Unless otherwise provided by these Standing Orders no debate shall take place except on a motion or order appearing in the Order Paper.

(6) A member who has given notice of a question or a motion may withdraw the same by giving written notice to the Secretary-General.

24. Unless the Standing Orders otherwise direct, notice shall be given of any motion which it is proposed to make with the exception of the following :-

- (1) A motion made in Committee of the whole Parliament.
- (2) A motion for the adjournment of Parliament or of any debate.
- (3) A motion that the report of a Select Committee be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament or be printed.
- (4) A motion for the withdrawal of strangers.
- (5) A motion for the suspension of a member.
- (6) A motion relating to a matter of privilege.
- (7) A motion arising out of the business of the day immediately after that business is disposed of and before any fresh matter is entered upon.

25. An urgent motion directly concerning the privileges of Parliament shall take precedence of all other motions as well as Orders of the Day. The proceedings of Parliament may be interrupted at any moment, save during the progress of a division, by a motion based on a matter of privilege when a matter has recently arisen which directly concerns the privileges of Parliament.

PETITIONS

[25A. (1) Every petition to Parliament shall be addressed to Mr. Speaker and shall be presented by a member.

(2) Every petition shall be in respectful language and shall not contain irrelevant statements.

(3) Every petition shall be clear and legible and shall conclude with a prayer reciting the relief sought.

(4) Every petition shall be signed by the petitioner or petitioners except in case of incapacity by sickness. A person unable to write shall affix his mark in the presence of a witness. The full name and address of every signatory to a petition shall be set out therein.

(5) No letters, affidavits or other documents shall be attached to any petition.

(6) No reference shall be made in a petition to any debate in Parliament.

(7) It shall not be competent for a member to present a petition from himself but the same may be presented by some other member.

(8) Every petition shall, before it is presented, be signed at the beginning thereof by the member in charge of it and deposited at least two clear days with the Secretary-General who shall submit it to Mr. Speaker for approval and no petition shall be presented until it has been so approved.

(9) A Member presenting a petition shall confine himself to a statement in the following form:-

Mr. Speaker, I present a petition from

(Name of Petitioner)

of and others.

No debate shall be permitted on this statement.

(10) A petition having been presented to Parliament shall stand referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.]

* Added by the second amendment to Standing Orders, November 3, 1981.

QUESTIONS

26. At the stage of business provided by these Standing Orders questions relating to public affairs may be put to the Prime Minister or to any Minister relating to subjects and functions assigned to him by the President and for which the Minister questioned has ministerial responsibility.

27. (1) When an oral answer to a question is required, Mr. Speaker, when the question is reached on the Order Paper, shall call upon the member in whose name the question stands and the member so called shall rise in his place and ask the question by reference to its number on the Order Paper and the reply will then be given by the Prime Minister or the Minister to whom the question is addressed.

(2) When a written answer to a question is required the Prime Minister or the Minister to whom the question is addressed shall cause the answer to be printed in the Official Report of Parliamentary Debates (Hansard).

28. (1) Any member may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an oral answer has been given :

Provided that not more than three supplementary questions shall be asked on any answer :

Provided further that Mr. Speaker shall disallow any supplementary question if, in his opinion, it infringes the rules as to admissibility of questions.

(2) A supplementary question must not introduce matter not included in the original question.

29. (1) The proper object of a question is to obtain information on a matter of fact within the special cognizance of the Minister to whom it is addressed or to urge that action be taken.

(2) A question must not be made the pretext for a debate.

30. Not more than half an hour shall be allotted to questions on any day and no member shall ask more than three questions for oral answer on any one day.

31. The right to ask questions shall be subject to the following rules:-

- (1) Not more than one subject shall be referred to in any one question and a question shall not exceed one hundred and fifty words.
- (2) A question must not publish any name or statement not strictly necessary to make the question intelligible.
- (3) If a question contains a statement, the member asking it must make himself responsible for the accuracy of the statement.

- (4) A question must not contain any argument, inference, imputation, epithet or ironical expression.
- (5) A question must not be asked about the proceedings in a Committee which have not been placed before Parliament by a Report from that Committee.
- (6) A question must not refer to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law or to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending.
- (7) A question may not ask for an expression of opinion, or for the solution of an abstract legal question or of a hypothetical proposition.
- (8) A question must not be asked as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity.
- (9) A question reflecting on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion must not be asked.
- (10) A question making or implying a charge of a personal character shall be disallowed.
- (11) A question fully answered must not be asked again during the same session.

32. (1) Mr. Speaker shall decide whether a question is or is not admissible under these Standing Orders and may disallow any question when in his opinion it is an abuse of the right of questioning or calculated to obstruct or affect prejudicially the procedure of Parliament and shall disallow any question if it infringes any of these Standing Orders. Disallowance of a question by Mr. Speaker, with the reason therefore, shall be communicated in writing to the member concerned by the Secretary-General.

(2) Any notice which contains unbecoming expressions or offends against any Standing Order of Parliament may be amended by Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the member asking the question, before it appears in the Order Book.

QUESTIONS FOR DEBATE

33. It shall be competent for any member to propose any motion on any matter of public interest and such motion shall be debated, or otherwise disposed of, according to these Standing Orders.

34. (1) A motion or amendment which by these Standing Orders is required to be seconded, and is not, shall lapse.

(2) If a private member does not move a motion which stands in his name when he is called on, it shall lapse unless some other member duly authorised by him in writing moves in his stead:

Provided that an Order of the Day may be moved by any member unless the member in charge of that Order has previously signified to the Secretary-General his desire to have the Order deferred to another day.

35. A member who has made a motion may withdraw the same by leave of Parliament.

ANTICIPATION

36. (1) It shall be out of order to make a motion or move an amendment dealing with the subject matter of a Bill or other Order of the Day appointed for consideration; and an amendment shall also be out of order if it deals with the subject matter of a motion of which notice has been given.

(2) An Order of the Day, Notice of Motion or amendment of which notice has been given, shall not be anticipated in a debate upon a motion for the adjournment of Parliament or in any other debate.

(3) In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, regard shall be had by Mr. Speaker to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before Parliament within a reasonable time.

AMENDMENTS

37. A question, when proposed from the Chair, may be amended:

- (a) by leaving out certain words in order to insert other words; or
- (b) by leaving out certain words; or
- (c) by inserting or adding other words.

38. (1) Every amendment shall be put in writing and handed to the Secretary-General by the member proposing it.

(2) Every amendment proposed to a Bill shall be examined by the Attorney-General in terms of Article 77 of the Constitution.

(3) An amendment must be relevant to the question to which it is proposed.

(4) An amendment must not raise any question which, by the rules of Parliament can only be raised by a substantive motion after notice.

(5) After decision has been given on an amendment to any part of a question an earlier part cannot be amended.

(6) In like manner, where an amendment of any part of a question has been proposed from the Chair, an earlier part cannot be amended, unless the amendment so proposed is withdrawn.

(7) An amendment on a question must not be inconsistent with a previous decision on the same question given at the same stage of any Bill or matter.

(8) To an amendment, when proposed from the Chair, an amendment may be moved.

39. (1) If the amendment is to leave out certain words in order to insert others, Mr. Speaker or the Chairman, after stating the amendment, shall first propose the question "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question or clause" and if that question is put and negatived he shall propose the question that the words proposed by the amendment be there inserted.

Provided that Mr. Speaker or the Chairman shall if possible put as the test question on an amendment only such words as will not prevent a subsequent amendment which is in order from being moved. If the question so proposed be negatived the remainder of the words proposed by the amendment to be left out shall be deemed to be left out without further question.

(2) If the amendment is to leave out certain words, Mr. Speaker or the Chairman, after stating the amendment, shall propose the question that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question or clause.

(3) If the amendment is to insert or add other words, Mr. Speaker or the Chairman, after stating the amendment, shall propose the question that the proposed words be there inserted or added.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this Order, Mr. Speaker may propose the question "That the amendment be agreed to" in place of the question or questions stated therein.

(5) If an amendment is moved to a proposed amendment, the last mentioned amendment shall be dealt with as if were the original question until all the amendments to it have been disposed of.

40. On the conclusion of the debate on a question, Mr. Speaker or the Chairman shall state the question either in its original or in its amended form as the case requires, and put the question.

CLOSURE

41. (1) After a question has been proposed, a member rising in his place may claim to move "That the question be now put" and unless it appears to the Chair that the motion is an abuse of the rules of Parliament or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question, "That the question be now put", shall be put forthwith.

(2) When the motion "That the question be now put", has been carried and the question consequent thereon has been decided, any further motion may be made (the assent of the Chair as aforesaid not having been withheld) which may be requisite to bring to a decision any question already proposed from the Chair.

(3) When a clause is under consideration a motion may be made (the assent of the Chair as aforesaid not having been withheld) that the question that certain words of the clause defined in the motion stand part of the clause or that the clause stand part of or be added to the Bill, be now put.

(4) Every motion made under this Order shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

(5) A motion under this Order is not carried in Parliament, or in a Committee of the whole Parliament, if it appears on a division that less than twenty members voted in the majority in support of the motion.

(6) A motion under this Order may be made in a Standing Committee, but is not carried if it appears on a division that less than the number forming the quorum of the Committee voted in the majority in support of the motion.

VOTING

42. The question shall be put by Mr. Speaker and the votes may be taken by voices, Ayes and Noes, and the result may be declared by Mr. Speaker. If the opinion of Mr. Speaker as to the decision of the question is challenged by any member, the division bells shall be rung for two minutes and division shall, subject to the provision of Standing Order 43, be taken as follows:-

(1) The votes shall be taken by the Secretary-General asking each member separately how he desires to vote and recording the votes accordingly. The Secretary-General shall first ask the Prime Minister and then the Ministers of the Cabinet, other Ministers and the Deputy Ministers in the respective alphabetical order of their names and then the other members in the alphabetical order of their names. A member may state that he declines to vote and in such case the Secretary-General shall record his name as having declined to vote;

(2) The Secretary-General shall announce the numbers of the votes and if the votes are equal Mr. Speaker shall give his casting vote. Mr. Speaker shall then declare the result of the division.

43. If Mr. Speaker is of opinion that a division is unnecessarily claimed, he may, as soon as the division bells have ceased to ring, take the votes of Parliament by calling successively upon the members who support and upon the members who challenge his decision to rise in their places, and may thereupon, as he thinks fit, either declare the determination of Parliament after counting or direct the Secretary-General to call over the names.

44. If a member states that he voted in error or that his vote has been counted wrongly he may claim to have his vote altered, provided that his claim is made as soon as the numbers of the votes have been announced and before Mr. Speaker has declared the result of the division.

PROCEDURE AS TO PRESENTATION OF BILLS

45. A Minister of the Cabinet or a Deputy Minister may after notice, subject to the provisions of Article 78 of the Constitution present a Bill without an order of Parliament for its introduction and when a Bill is so presented at the commencement of Public Business, the title of the Bill shall be read by the Secretary-General and the Bill shall then be deemed to have been read the first time and to have been ordered to be printed and shall stand for Second Reading on a date not earlier than a week from the date on which it was presented :

Provided, however, that an Urgent Bill referred to in Article 122 of the Constitution shall stand for Second Reading upon such day as the Minister of the Cabinet or the Deputy Minister may appoint.

URGENT BILLS

46. When Mr. Speaker receives a copy of a reference addressed to the Chief Justice by the President in relation to a Bill which is in the view of the Cabinet of Ministers urgent in the national interest under Article 122 (1) of the Constitution, such Bill shall not be placed on the Order Paper until Mr. Speaker has received from the Supreme Court its determination as provided for in Article 122 (1) (c) of the Constitution.

*[46 A (1) When a Bill in respect of any matter set out in List III of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution is presented to Parliament, unless Parliament otherwise decides by resolution, the procedure laid down in paragraph 2 of this Order shall be followed.

(2) (a) The Speaker shall direct the Secretary-General to forward copies of the said Bill to each Provincial Council for report to Parliament on its views regarding the Bill within a period of one month from the date of reference of such Bill to such Provincial Council or such period of time as Parliament may specify.

(b) On the expiry of the times specified in (a) above, or on the receipt of the views of the Provincial Councils, whichever is earlier Parliament may proceed with the Bill.

(3) (a) Whenever a communication is received from any Provincial Council seeking to consult Parliament on any Proposed Statute to be made in respect of any matter set out in List III of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution the Speaker shall announce its receipt at the first available opportunity. The communication shall thereupon be referred to a Standing Committee.

(b) After consideration of the Report of the Committee the Parliament shall direct the Secretary-General to forward the views of the Parliament regarding the proposed statute to the Provincial Council concerned within one month of the receipt of such communication from the Provincial Council]

* Added by the twenty-sixth amendment to Standing Orders December 29, 1989.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS

47. (1) Any private member desiring to introduce a Bill shall apply to Parliament for leave to do so, stating at the same time the object and leading features of such Bill.

(2) Every such application shall be made in the form of a motion and the member making such application shall at the same time deliver to the Secretary-General a copy of the proposed Bill, in Sinhala and Tamil with a translation in English together with a copy of his motion.

(3) The Secretary-General shall cause the Bill to be published in the Gazette in Sinhala and Tamil with a translation in English.

(4) At any time after the lapse of a period of seven days from the date on which the Bill was published in the Gazette, the motion referred to in paragraph (2) of this Order shall be placed on the Order Paper of Parliament.

(5) Leave being granted on a question put, and carried, the Bill shall then be deemed to have been read the first time and ordered to be printed and shall stand referred without discussion to the Minister of the Cabinet or Deputy Minister concerned with the subjects and functions to which the Bill relates or if there is no such Minister of the Cabinet or Deputy Minister then to such other Minister of the Cabinet or Deputy Minister as Mr. Speaker may nominate and no further proceedings shall be taken upon such Bill until the Minister of the Cabinet or Deputy Minister to whom it has been referred has reported to Parliament thereon.

(6) After the report referred to in the preceding paragraph of this Order has been made or if after the expiry of six months from the date on which the Bill was referred to the Minister of the Cabinet or Deputy Minister, no report has been made by the Minister of the Cabinet or Deputy Minister concerned the Bill shall be set down for Second Reading upon such day as the member in charge of the Bill desires.

48. (1) Where any Bill shall be proposed which is intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association or corporate body, notice of the Bill shall be given by advertising in the Gazette in Sinhala, Tamil, English and in at least one Sinhala, one Tamil and one English newspaper circulating in the Republic a statement of its general nature and objects, and such advertisement shall appear at least one month before the application for leave to introduce the Bill is made.

(2) In the case of every such Bill, paragraph (2) of Standing Order 47 shall apply as if the words "and a copy of the advertisements published under Standing Order 48" had been inserted at the end of that paragraph.

(3) Every such Bill after being read a second time shall be allocated by Mr. Speaker to a Standing Committee or if upon a motion made by a Minister of the Cabinet or a Deputy Minister the Parliament so decides, it shall be referred to a Select Committee to be nominated by Mr. Speaker.

(4) The Committee on such a Bill shall require proof of the facts and other allegations set forth in the Bill as showing that it is expedient that the Bill should be passed, and may take such oral or other evidence as it may think requisite, and thereafter if the Committee find that the said facts and allegations are not proved, it shall report accordingly; but if the Committee find that the said facts and allegations have been proved, the Committee shall consider the several clauses of the Bill, and may strike out clauses, add new clauses and make any other amendments which it may deem necessary, and all such new clauses and other amendments shall be reported to Parliament. No clause shall be allowed in such a Bill which is foreign to the import of the notice required by paragraph (1) of this Order. No clause affecting any private right or interest shall be allowed in such a Bill unless circumstances are set forth in the Bill which render such clause justifiable and expedient.

PARTIES AFFECTED, WITNESSES, EVIDENCE

49. (1) In any case in which individual rights or interest may be peculiarly affected by any Bill, all parties so affected may be heard upon petition before the Committee to whom the Bill is referred either in person or by counsel.

(2) When it is intended to examine any witnesses, the petitioner or the Member of Parliament requiring such witnesses, shall deliver to the Secretary- General, two days at least before the day appointed for their examination, a list containing the names, residence and occupation of such witnesses.

(3) The evidence of every witness shall be taken down and read over to the witness, who may then desire any correction to be made and in case no such correction is made the evidence shall then stand as taken down and shall not be altered afterwards.

SECOND READING

50. (1) A Bill other than a Bill under Article 122 of the Constitution shall be set down for Second Reading on a day not earlier than a week from the day on which it was presented.

(2) When the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to determine whether any Bill or any provision thereof is inconsistent with the Constitution has been invoked under Article 121 of the Constitution and a copy of the reference or petition has been delivered to Mr. Speaker-

(a) such reference or filing of a petition shall be conveyed to Parliament by Mr. Speaker on the first day of a meeting of Parliament after such reference is made or such petition is filed ;

(b) no proceedings in relation to such Bill shall be had until the determination of the Supreme Court has been made and communicated to Mr. Speaker or until the expiration of a period of three weeks from the date of such reference or filing of such petition, whichever occurs first ;

(c) the determination of the Supreme Court shall be announced by Mr. Speaker to Parliament after the receipt of such determination, and no debate shall be permitted on such announcement.

DEBATE ON SECOND READING

51. On the Second Reading of a Bill a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the Bill.

COMMITTEE STAGE OF BILLS

52. When a Bill has been read a second time, upon a motion made by a Minister of the Cabinet or a Deputy Minister, the Bill shall be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament:

Provided that if upon a motion made by a Minister of the Cabinet or a Deputy Minister, Parliament so decides, a Bill, other than an Annual or Supplementary Appropriation Bill, may be referred either to a Select Committee to be nominated by Mr. Speaker or to a Standing Committee.

53. When a Bill has been referred either to a Select Committee or to a Standing Committee no further proceedings shall be taken thereon until the Committee has reported.

PROCEDURE ON BILLS IN COMMITTEE

54. On a Bill being committed, the Committee shall discuss its several provisions and any proposed amendments, and may adjourn its sitting or if it is a Committee of the whole Parliament, report progress from time to time as occasion may arise.

55. The Chairman of the Committee or the Secretary-General shall read the number of each clause in succession.

56. Any amendment may be made to a clause, or clauses may be deleted or new clauses may be added, provided the same be relevant to the subject matter of the Bill, and be otherwise in conformity with the Standing Orders.

57. The principle of the Bill shall not be discussed in Committee, but only its details.

58. No amendment can be proposed inconsistent with any decision come to upon any previous part of the Bill.

59. After a Bill has been read through in Committee, and while the Bill is still in Committee, any member may, with leave of the Chairman, move an amendment of any clause already passed.

60. (1) A clause may be postponed, unless upon an amendment thereto a question shall have been fully put from the Chair.

(2) Postponed clauses shall be considered after the remaining clauses of the Bill have been considered and before new clauses are brought up.

61. (1) New clauses may be offered before the Schedules to the Bill are considered and shall be deemed to have been read the first time. The questions which follow thereupon shall be "That the clause be read a second time", and "that the clause (or the clause as amended) be added to the Bill".

(2) New Schedules may be offered after the Schedules to the Bill have been disposed of and shall be treated in the same manner as new clauses.

(3) When every clause and Schedule and proposed new clause or Schedule have been dealt with, the preamble, if there be one, shall be considered and a question put "That this be the preamble of the Bill".

(4) If any amendment be necessary to the title of the Bill, it shall be made at the conclusion of the proceedings detailed above.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON BILLS

62. When a Committee of the whole Parliament has completed the consideration of a Bill, the Chairman shall report the Bill with or without amendments to Parliament.

63. A Standing Committee or a Select Committee to which a Bill has been referred shall present a report to Parliament setting out its recommendations, and a copy of the report shall be distributed to every member.

64. The report of a Select Committee upon a Bill shall be presented by the Chairman and may be ordered to lie upon the Table, or be otherwise dealt with as Parliament may direct. Upon motion made by any member the Bill may be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament or the report of the Select Committee set down for consideration upon a day to be appointed by the member in charge of the Bill.

65. The report of a Standing Committee on a Bill shall be presented by the Chairman and the report shall be set down for consideration upon a day to be appointed by the member in charge of the Bill. Upon consideration of the report from a Standing Committee or a Select Committee, Parliament shall consider only those amendments, if any, made by the Committee but may further amend those amendments. No new amendments shall be made by Parliament upon consideration of the report except such as are consequential upon amendments made by the Committee and accepted by Parliament, but the Bill may be recommitted to the same Committee with reference to particular amendments made by the Committee.

THIRD READING

66. A Bill having passed through Committee of the whole Parliament, or having been reported without amendment to Parliament by a Select Committee, may, on motion made, forthwith be read a third time and passed, or if Parliament so direct the Third Reading may be postponed.

67. (1) When a Bill has been reported to Parliament by a Standing Committee without amendment, it may upon the day appointed for its consideration, be forthwith read a third time and passed or if Parliament so direct, the Third Reading may be postponed.

(2) If a Standing Committee or a Select Committee has amended the Bill, it may be read a third time and passed as soon as Parliament has considered the amendments made by the Committee, or if Parliament so direct, the Third Reading may be postponed.

*68. [At the Third Reading of a Bill, verbal or drafting amendments may be made upon Motion after notice. At any time before the certificate of Mr. Speaker is endorsed on the Bill Mr. Speaker shall have the power to correct any grammatical or typographical errors in the Bill.]

*Original deleted and substituted by the twenty ninth amendment to Standing Orders February 26, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER'S CERTIFICATE

69. As soon as may be after a Bill has been passed by Parliament Mr. Speaker shall endorse on the Bill in Sinhala and in Tamil the Certificate prescribed by Article 79 of the Constitution.

ALLOTTED DAYS FOR APPROPRIATION BILL

***70.** [(1) Twenty-six days and no more (unless as hereinafter provided) being days before 31st December shall be allotted to the consideration of the Appropriation Bill:

Provided that days occupied in the consideration of any Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall not be included in the compilation of the aforesaid twenty-six days.

(2) On a day so allotted the hours of sitting shall be 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.:

Provided that at 6.00 p.m. paragraph (5) and (6) of Standing Order shall operate.

(3) On a day so allotted, the Appropriation Bill shall be put down as the first item of Public Business and no other Public Business shall be taken before 6.00 p.m. on any such day.

(4) Not more than seven days shall be allotted to the Second Reading of the Bill, and at 6.00 p.m. on the last allotted day Mr. Speaker shall, unless the proceedings on the Second Reading have terminated earlier put forthwith any question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading and to commit the Bill and Parliament shall not be adjourned until all such Questions have been disposed of.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (1) of this Order not more than twenty-two of the days shall be allotted to the Committee Stage of the Appropriation Bill and on the last of such days at 6.00 p.m. the Chairman shall, unless the Bill has previously been reported, put forthwith the Question on any amendment then under discussion and then successively on any Government amendments to that Head and the Question necessary to dispose of that Head and shall then proceed successively to put forthwith the Question with respect to each Ministry's Heads that the total amounts of the Heads outstanding in the Ministry's Estimates be inserted in the Schedule for the services defined in those Estimates and then that the several Schedules respectively stand part of the Bill and Parliament shall not be adjourned until the Bill has been reported.

(6) On any day on which proceedings under this Order are to be brought to a conclusion the consideration of such proceedings shall not be anticipated or interrupted by a motion of adjournment and no dilatory motion shall be moved on such proceedings:

Provided that if leave is given for a motion of adjournment under Standing Order 17 such motion shall stand over until the proceedings on the Appropriation Bill have been concluded and at 8.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall, unless Parliament be previously adjourned, adjourn Parliament without question put.]

* Original deleted and substituted by the fourteenth amendment to Standing Orders January 8, 1985.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR RULES OF ORDER

71. (1) Mr. Speaker in Parliament and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observances of the rules of order in Parliament and Committee respectively and their decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by Parliament except upon a substantive motion made after notice.

(2) Whenever Mr. Speaker or the Chairman rises during a debate any member speaking, or offering to speak, shall sit down and Parliament or Committee shall be silent so that Mr. Speaker or the Chairman may be heard without interruption.

(3) When a question of order has been stated the member who raises it shall resume his seat, and no other member, except by leave of Mr. Speaker or the Chairman, shall rise till Mr. Speaker or the Chairman has risen and decided the question, after which the member who was addressing Parliament at the time the question was raised shall be entitled to proceed with his speech, giving effect to the ruling of the Chair.

ORDER IN PARLIAMENT

72. (1) Whenever any member is named by Mr. Speaker immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the Chair, or of abusing the rules of Parliament by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of Parliament, or otherwise, Mr. Speaker shall forthwith put the question on a motion being made (no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed) "that such member be suspended from the service of Parliament".

(2) If any such motion be carried and any member be suspended under this Order his suspension on the first occasion shall be for one week; on the second occasion during the same session for two weeks; and on the third or any subsequent occasion during the same session for one month.

(3) Not more than one member shall be named at the same time, unless several members present together have jointly disregarded the authority of the Chair.

(4) If any member or members acting jointly who have been suspended under this Order from the service of Parliament, refuse, at any time during the period of suspension, to obey the direction of Mr. Speaker to withdraw from the precincts of Parliament, Mr. Speaker may direct such steps to be taken as are required to enforce his decision.

(5) If an offence of the kind described in the first paragraph of this Order is committed in a Committee of the whole Parliament, the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to Parliament and Mr. Speaker shall on a motion being made thereupon put the same question without amendment, adjournment or debate, as if the offence has been committed in Parliament.

73. Mr. Speaker, after having called the attention of Parliament to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate may direct the member to discontinue his speech.

74. (1) Mr. Speaker shall order members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from Parliament during the remainder of the day's sitting and may direct such steps to be taken as are required to enforce his order.

(2) If on any occasion Mr. Speaker deems that his powers under this Order are inadequate, he may name such members in pursuance of Standing Order 72.

*75. [Members who are suspended under Standing Order 72 or are directed to withdraw under Standing Order 74 shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of Parliament and shall during the period of such suspension, be debarred from the Committees.

Precincts of Parliament means and includes the Parliament Buildings and the land area from Gate No. 1 to Gate No. 3 of Parliament.]

76. In case of grave disorder arising in Parliament Mr. Speaker may, if he thinks it necessary to do so, adjourn Parliament without question put or suspend the sitting for a time to be named by him.

*77. [(1) Any member who has used objectionable words in debate which are improper or unparliamentary or has stated in debate anything in contravention of Standing Order No. 78 or Standing Order No. 84 (vi) or (viii) and has not explained or retracted the same, or offered apologies for the use thereof to the satisfaction of Parliament, or who has committed any breach of order not specified in these Orders may be proceeded against in any way Parliament thinks fit, and nothing in these Orders shall prevent Parliament from proceeding against any member for breaches of order specified in these Orders in any other manner than the manner specified in these Orders.

(2) (i) If Mr. Speaker is of opinion—

(a) that objectionable words have been used in debate which are improper or unparliamentary; or

(b) that anything has been stated in debate in contravention of Standing Order No. 78 or Standing Order No. 84 (vi) or (viii) he may in his discretion order that such words or such statements be expunged from the Official Report of Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) and those words or statements shall be regarded as unspoken.

(ii) If Mr. Speaker makes such order other than in the course of Proceedings in Parliament Mr. Speaker shall inform Parliament of such order at the next sitting of Parliament.]

* Original deleted and substituted by the thirtieth amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

** Original deleted and substituted by the first amendment to Standing Orders, March 5, 1980.

RULES OF DEBATE

78. The conduct of the President or acting President, Members of Parliament, Judges or other persons engaged in the administration of justice shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion ; and in any amendment, question to a Minister, or remarks in a debate on a motion dealing with any other subject reference to the conduct of the persons aforesaid shall be out of order.

*78A. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Standing Orders, where notice of a resolution for the presentation of an address to the President for the removal of a Judge from office is given to the Speaker in accordance with Article 107 of the Constitution, the Speaker shall entertain such resolution and place it on the Order Paper of Parliament but such resolution shall not be proceeded with until after the expiration of a period of one month from the date on which the Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order has reported to Parliament.

(2) Where a resolution referred to in paragraph (1) of this Order is placed on the Order Paper of Parliament, the Speaker shall appoint a Select Committee of Parliament consisting of not less than seven members to investigate and report to Parliament on the allegations of misbehaviour or incapacity set out in such resolution.

(3) A Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order shall transmit to the Judge whose alleged misbehaviour or incapacity is the subject of its investigation, a copy of the allegations of misbehaviour or incapacity made against such Judge and set out in the resolution in pursuance of which such Select Committee was appointed, and shall require such Judge to make a written statement of defence within such period as may be specified by it.

**[(4) The Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order shall have power to send for persons, papers and records and not less than half the number of members of the Select Committee shall form the quorum.]

(5) The Judge whose alleged misbehaviour or incapacity is the subject of the investigation by a Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order shall have the right to appear before it and to be heard by, such Committee, in person or by representative and to adduce evidence, oral or documentary, in disproof of the allegations made against him.

(6) At the conclusion of the investigation made by it, a Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order shall within one month from the commencement of the sittings of such Select Committee, report its findings together with the minutes of evidence taken before it to Parliament and may make a special report of any matters which it may think fit to bring to the notice of Parliament:

Provided however, if the Select Committee is unable to report its findings to Parliament within the time limit stipulated herein the Select Committee shall seek permission of Parliament for an extension of a further specified period of time giving reasons therefore, and Parliament may grant such extension of time as it may consider necessary.

* Added by the fifth amendment to Standing Orders, April 4, 1984.

** Original deleted and substituted by the fifteenth amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

(7) Where a resolution for the presentation of an address to the President for the removal of a Judge from office on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity is passed by Parliament, the Speaker shall present such address to the President on behalf of Parliament.

(8) All proceedings connected with the investigation by the Select Committee appointed under paragraph (3) of this Order shall not be made public unless and until a finding of guilt on any of the charges against such Judge is reported to Parliament by such Select Committee.

(9) In this Standing Order "Judge" means the Chief Justice, the President of the Court of Appeal and every other Judge of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal appointed by the President of the Republic by Warrant under his hand.]

***78B.** [(1) Where a resolution for the presentation of an address to the President for the removal from office of

- (a) the Secretary-General of Parliament appointed under Article 65 of the Constitution ; or
- (b) the Commissioner of Elections appointed under Article 103 of the Constitution;
- or
- (c) the Auditor-General appointed under Article 153 of the Constitution; or
- (d) the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration appointed under Article 156 of the Constitution,

is placed on the Order Paper of Parliament, such resolution shall not be proceeded with until after the expiration of a period of one month from the date on which the Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order has reported to Parliament.

(2) Where a resolution referred to in paragraph (1) of this Order is placed on the Order Paper of Parliament, the Speaker shall appoint a Select Committee of Parliament consisting of not less seven members to investigate and report to Parliament on the matters set out in such resolution.

(3) A Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order shall transmit to the person whose removal from office is the subject matter of its investigation, a copy of the matters set out in the resolution in pursuance of which such Select Committee was appointed, and shall require such person to make a written statement of defence within such period as may be specified by it.

******(4) [The Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order shall have power to send for persons, papers and records and not less than half the number of members of the Select Committee shall form the quorum.]

* Added by the sixth amendment to Standing Orders, April 4, 1984 :

** Original deleted and substituted by the sixteenth amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

(5) At the conclusion of the investigation made by it, a Select Committee appointed under paragraph (2) of this Order, shall report its findings together with the minutes of evidence taken before it to Parliament, and may make a special report of any matters which it may think fit to bring to the notice of Parliament.

(6) Where a resolution for the presentation of an address to the President referred to in paragraph (1) of this Order is passed by Parliament, the Speaker shall present such address to the President on behalf of Parliament.]

79. No member shall speak more than once on any proposition before Parliament except –

- (a) in explanation of some material part of his speech, which has been misunderstood, but without the introduction of any new matter; or
- (b) to a point of order.

80. The mover of any motion or amendment may speak in support thereof; but no further debates shall be allowed nor shall any question thereon be put to Parliament, until the motion or amendment be duly seconded.

81. Any member may second a motion or amendment by rising in his place and bowing to the Chair, without prejudice to his right to speak at a later period of the debate.

82. No member may speak to any question after the same has been fully put by Mr. Speaker. A question is fully put when the voices of both the Ayes and the Noes have been given thereon.

83. When a question for debate has been proposed, debated, and disposed of, it shall not be competent to any member, without the leave of Mr. Speaker, again to propose such question in the same session, nor shall it be competent, without such leave, to revive in any debate matter upon which Parliament has come to a conclusion during the same session.

RULES FOR MEMBERS SPEAKING IN PARLIAMENT

84. In speaking to any proposition under consideration of Parliament, the following rules shall be strictly observed :-

- (i) Every member shall address his observations to Mr. Speaker and shall, except with the leave of Mr. Speaker, speak standing;
- (ii) He shall not be interrupted, unless out of order;
- (iii) When he has finished his observations, he shall resume his seat, and any other member wishing to address Parliament may rise;
- (iv) If two members rise at the same time, Mr. Speaker shall call on the member who first catches his eye;
- (v) Every member must confine his observations to the subject under discussion;
- (vi) No member shall refer to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law or to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending;

- (vii) No member shall refer to any other member by name;
- (viii) No member shall impute improper motives to any other member;
- (ix) A member may speak to the question before Parliament or upon any amendment proposed thereto;
- (x) By the indulgence of Parliament a member may explain matters of a personal nature although there is no question before Parliament, but such matters may not be debated, and he must confine himself strictly to the vindication of his own conduct;
- (xi) The mover of any resolution or motion may reply after all the other members present have had an opportunity of addressing Parliament and before the question put;
- (xii) Any member deviating from the rules may be immediately called to order by Mr. Speaker, or by any other member rising to a point of order.

RULES FOR MEMBERS NOT SPEAKING

85. A member during a debate in Parliament or in Committee of the whole Parliament—

- (i) shall enter Parliament or Committee with decorum ;
- (ii) shall not cross Parliament irregularly ;
- (iii) shall not read newspapers, books or letters save such as relate to the business before Parliament;
- (iv) shall not smoke;
- (v) shall maintain silence while another member is speaking and shall not interrupt unless the member speaking gives way.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PARLIAMENT

86. (1) A Committee of the whole Parliament is appointed by resolution that Parliament resolve itself into Committee.

(2) When such resolution has been agreed to Mr. Speaker will leave the Chair without question put.

87. Mr. Speaker, or if he not present, the Deputy Speaker, shall preside as Chairman of a Committee of the whole Parliament, and in the absence of both, the Deputy Chairman of Committees shall preside. In the absence of Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and the Deputy Chairman of Committees, a member of the Chairman's panel shall preside.

88. The Chairman of a Committee of the whole Parliament shall take his seat in the Chair appointed by Mr. Speaker for that purpose.

89. Voting in Committee of the whole Parliament shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Standing Orders 42 to 44 with the substitution therein of the Chairman for Mr. Speaker.

90. The Chairman of a Committee of the whole Parliament shall not vote unless the votes of the other members are equally divided ; in such case he shall give his casting vote.

91. The rules as to procedure when Mr. Speaker is in the Chair shall apply to procedure in Committee of the whole Parliament except that—

- (a) a motion shall not require notice ;
- (b) a motion need not be seconded ;
- (c) a member may speak more than once to the same question.

92. A Committee of the whole Parliament shall consider such matters only as shall have been referred to it by Parliament.

93. The proceedings in a Committee of the whole Parliament shall be recorded in the minutes.

SELECT COMMITTEES

94. If it is desired to enable a Select Committee to whom a Bill or matter has been referred to hear evidence thereon, Parliament may by resolution empower that Committee to send for persons, papers and records and any Committee on whom such powers have been conferred shall have leave to report their opinions and observations together with the minutes of evidence taken before them to Parliament and to make a special report of any matters which they may think fit to bring to the notice of Parliament.

95. A Select Committee shall not, without the leave of Parliament, consist of more than twelve members. A motion for such leave requires notice.

*96. [The scope of an inquiry by a Select Committee shall be defined by the terms of the Order under which it is appointed but it may be enlarged or restricted by the instructions of Parliament. Such Order shall prescribe the time for the presentation of the final report of the committee provided that the Parliament may extend such time to a specified date.]

97. The Chairman and Members of every Select Committee shall be appointed by Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Chairman, any Member of the Committee chosen by the members of the Select Committee shall be Chairman.

98. The Committee shall hold its meeting at such time and place as may be appointed by the Chairman. Meetings after the first meeting shall be held at such times and places as the Committee may determine.

99. Four members of a Select Committee shall unless otherwise ordered form the quorum.

100. Mr. Speaker may from time to time in the case of the death or resignation of a member appoint another member to take the place of such member on a Select Committee. Any member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings of a Select Committee without having obtained the prior leave of such Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of such Committee. Every appointment under this Order shall be announced to Parliament at its next meeting.

101. The Chairman of a Select Committee shall have an original vote. If the votes cast be equally divided he shall also have a casting vote.

* Original deleted and substituted by the thirty first amendment to Standing Orders February 26, 1993.

102. A Select Committee may continue its investigations although Parliament may be adjourned and shall not be dissolved until the presentation to Parliament of its report or by motion of Parliament.

103. The names of the members present each day at the sitting of any Select Committee, the names of the witnesses examined and in the event of any division taking place, the question proposed, the name of the proposer and the respective votes thereupon of the members present, shall be entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee and such minutes of proceedings together with the minutes of evidence shall be reported to Parliament and printed with the report of the Committee.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

***104.** [The Committee of Selection shall at the commencement of every Session of Parliament and from time to time as necessity may arise appoint a number of Consultative Committees corresponding to the number of Ministries of the Cabinet.]

105. The Chairman of a Consultative Committee shall be the Minister in charge of the subjects and functions which the Committee has been empowered to consider:

Provided that in the case of the Ministries which are in charge of the President, the Deputy Minister of those Ministries shall be the Chairman of such Consultative Committees.

****106.** [Each Consultative Committee shall consist of not less than five members and not more than [†][twelve members] appointed by the Committee of Selection.]

***106 A.** [The Committee of Selection may, from time to time in the case of death, resignation or vacation of membership of a member of a Consultative Committee, appoint another member to take the place of such member on Consultative Committee. However, the Committee of Selection reserves to itself the right to discharge any member of any Consultative Committee when the Committee deems it necessary and appoint another in his place. Every appointment under this Order shall be announced to Parliament at its next meeting.]

*****[106 B.** Any member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without having obtained the prior leave of such Committee on application under his signature, shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of such Consultative Committee and shall not be re-appointed to such Committee during the same Session unless agreed to by the Committee of Selection.

* Original deleted and substituted by the thirty second amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

** Original deleted and substituted by the seventh amendment to Standing Orders, April 4, 1984.

† Original words deleted and substituted by the thirty-third amendment to Standing Orders February 26, 1993

† Added by the eighth amendment to Standing Orders, April 4, 1984, thereafter deleted and substituted by the seventeenth amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

*** Added by the eighteenth amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

Provided that the preceding provisions shall not apply where any meeting of such Committee is held on a day falling within the period during which such member has, with the leave of Parliament first obtained, absented himself from sittings of Parliament.]

107. Each Consultative Committee shall, as far as possible reflect the party composition in Parliament. The Committee of Selection shall consult the wishes of the members in making appointments to the Consultative Committees and shall, as far as possible, accommodate those wishes of the members.

108. No Member shall serve in more than one Consultative Committee unless the Committee of Selection decides to the contrary.

[108 A. Any Member of Parliament may attend the meetings of a Consultative Committee of which he is not a member at the request of the Chairman of the Committee and shall withdraw when requested by the Chairman.]

****109.** [The duty of a Consultative Committee shall be to inquire into and report upon such matters as are referred to it by the chairman or by Parliament, including any Bill, proposals for legislation, supplementary or other estimates, statements of expenditure, motions, annual reports or papers.]

110. A Consultative Committee shall have the power to initiate through the Chairman any Bill or motion.

****[111.** Each Consultative Committee shall meet whenever summoned by the Chairman. It shall be the duty of every Secretary to the Ministry to ensure in consultation with the Chairman and Secretary General of Parliament that meetings are summoned by the Chairman at least once a month and a meaningful programme of work arranged.

Provided that a meeting shall be summoned as soon as possible upon the written request of at least three members of such Consultative Committee.]

112. The Secretary-General or any other officer of Parliament nominated by him shall be the Secretary to every such Committee. He shall be provided with such other staff, facilities and resources as may be necessary to carry out his duties and functions.

113. The Report from the Consultative Committee on matters referred to it by Parliament shall be presented to Parliament by the Chairman within three months of such reference, and if considered necessary, Parliament may propose the further consideration of any particular items. A reservation by any member of a Committee may be added to the Report :

* Added by the thirty-fourth amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993. (v)

** Original deleted and substituted by the thirty-fifth amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

* Original deleted and substituted by the ninth amendment to Standing Orders April 4, 1984 and thereafter deleted and substituted by the thirty-sixth amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

Provided that matters referred to a Consultative Committee shall not be taken up for consideration by Parliament until the Report of the Consultative Committee on those matters is presented to Parliament.

114. Each Consultative Committee shall have the power to send for and examine persons, papers and records, to move from place to place and to do all such acts as are necessary for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to it and to meet notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.

*115. [Three members of a Consultative Committee shall form the quorum and it shall be the duty of the Chairman of such Consultative Committee, not to function without the required quorum.]

SUB COMMITTEES

**[115 A (i) Each Consultative Committee may, when it considers necessary appoint sub committees of its own members to examine and report to such Consultative Committee on such matters within a period to be specified by the Consultative Committee, as such Consultative Committee may direct and such Consultative Committee may when it considers necessary authorize any such sub committee for the performance of its duties to summon before it and question any person and call for and examine any paper, record or document and move from place to place for the fullest consideration of the matters referred to it and to meet notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament.

(ii) Each sub committee shall consist of a Chairman and two other members nominated by the Consultative Committee. Two members including the Chairman of such sub committee shall form the quorum.

(iii) A member functioning as Chairman of one sub committee shall not function in that capacity concurrently in any other sub committee of such Consultative Committee.

(iv) The Secretary-General of Parliament or any other officer nominated by him shall be the Secretary to every sub committee who shall prepare and maintain the minutes of every such sub committee.

(v) All meetings of sub committees shall be held in Parliament unless the Consultative Committee decides otherwise]

* Original deleted and substituted by the nineteenth amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

** Added by the twentieth amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

STANDING COMMITTEES (LEGISLATIVE)

***[116.** The duty of a Standing Committee shall be limited to the consideration of the Bills/Proposed Statutes referred to it by Parliament, and for that purpose it shall have power to send for persons, papers and records.

***117.** The first meeting of a Standing Committee for the consideration of any Bill/Proposed Statute referred to it shall be held at such time and place as the Chairman shall appoint. Subsequent meetings for the consideration of the same Bill/Proposed Statute shall be held at such times and places as the Committee may determine, provided that if the Committee fails to do so the Chairman shall, in consultation with the Secretary-General, appoint such times and places.

***118. (1)** The Chairman of a Standing Committee shall have an original vote and if the votes be equally divided, he shall also have a casting vote.

(2) The member in charge of any Bill referred to a Standing Committee, if not a member of that Committee, shall have the right to attend any meeting at which such Bill shall be under discussion and to address the Committee upon the Bill, and to move amendments and vote as a member of the Committee upon any question arising in connection with such Bill.

***119.** The procedure in Standing Committees shall be as nearly as may be the same as that in Committee of the Whole Parliament and the minutes of a Standing Committee shall be kept in the same form as those of a Committee of the Whole Parliament and shall be reported to Parliament within the time limit, if any, laid down by Parliament, together with the Bill/Proposed Statute and the report thereon.

***120.** A Standing Committee may continue its deliberations although Parliament be adjourned :

Provided, however, where at the conclusion of a session a Standing Committee has not completed its deliberations and presented its report to Parliament, the proceedings of that Committee shall stand referred to the Standing Committee to which the Bill/Proposed Statute may be referred in the next session.]

COMMITTEES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

121. COMMITTEE OF SELECTION—There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee of Selection appointed at the commencement of every session to consider the number, functions and constitution (including quorum) of Consultative Committees and Legislative Standing Committees and to report with all convenient speed their opinions thereon to Parliament, and to nominate members to serve upon any such Consultative Committees and Legislative Standing Committees appointed by Parliament and to nominate members to serve upon the House Committee, the Committee on Standing

* Original deleted and substituted by the twenty seventh amendment to Standing Orders, December 22, 1989.

Orders, the Committee on Parliamentary Business, the Committee on Public Accounts, the Committee on Public Enterprises, the Committee on Privileges and the Committee on Public Petitions. [The Committee of Selection shall consist of Mr. Speaker as Chairman and seventeen Members which shall include the Leaders of political parties or their nominees to be nominated by Parliament at the commencement of each Session.] The Committee shall have leave to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of Parliament, to report from time to time, and to inform Parliament when any member has been nominated to any Committee.

122. HOUSE COMMITTEE – There shall be a Committee to be designated the House Committee consisting of Mr. Speaker as Chairman and nine members nominated by the Committee of Selection to consider and advise upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of members. The minutes of meetings of this Committee shall be circulated to all members.

123. COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS – There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Standing Orders consisting of Mr. Speaker as Chairman, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of Committees and six other members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider matters of procedure and conduct of business in Parliament and to recommend any amendments or additions to these Standing Orders that may be deemed necessary and to report on all matters relating to the Standing Orders which may be referred to them by Parliament.

124. COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS – There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Parliamentary Business consisting of Mr. Speaker as Chairman, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of Committees, the Leader of the House of Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Government Whip, the Chief Opposition Whip and **[eight other members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.] It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider and decide on the time that should be allocated for the discussion of such business of Parliament and such other matters as Mr. Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House of Parliament, may refer to the Committee. The minutes of meetings of this Committee shall be circulated to all members.

125. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS- (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Accounts ***[consisting of twelve members] nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the public expenditure and such other accounts laid before Parliament as the Committee may think fit, along with the reports of the Auditor-General on local authorities.

* Original words deleted and substituted by the thirty seventh amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

** Original words deleted and substituted by the thirty eighth amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

*** Original words deleted and substituted by the thirty ninth amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

(3) The Committee shall, from time to time, report to Parliament on the accounts examined, the finances, financial procedures, performance and management generally of any department, local authority and on any matter arising therefrom.

(4) The Committee may when it considers necessary appoint sub-committees of its own members to examine and report to the Committee on all accounts and the finances and management of such departments, local authorities as the Committee may direct.

(5) The Committee or any of its sub-committees shall for the performance of its duties have the power to summon before it and question any person and call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to have access to stores and property.

(6) The quorum of the Committee shall be four members.

126. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ENTERPRISES – (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Enterprises [*consisting of twelve members] nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine the accounts of public corporations and of any business or other undertaking vested under any written law in the Government laid before Parliament, along with the reports of the Auditor-General thereon.

(3) The Committee shall, from time to time, report to Parliament on the accounts examined, the budgets and annual estimates, the finances, financial procedures, performance and management generally of any public corporation or of any business or other undertaking vested under written law in the Government and on any matter arising therefrom.

(4) The Committee may when it considers necessary appoint sub-committees of its own members to examine and report to the Committee on all accounts, the budgets and annual estimates, the finances and management of such public corporations or of any business or other undertaking vested under any written law in the Government as the Committee may direct.

(5) The Committee or any of its sub-committees shall for the performance of its duties have the power to summon before it and question any person and call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to have access to stores and property.

(6) The quorum of the Committee shall be four members.

* Original words deleted and substituted by the forty second amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

127. COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES- There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Privileges consisting of not more than ten members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection for the examination of every Question of Privilege that may be referred to it on motion moved and approved by Parliament, and for the determination with reference to the facts of each case whether a breach of Privilege has been committed and if so, the nature of the breach, the circumstances leading to it, to make recommendation as the Committee may deem fit. The report of the Committee on each question referred to it shall be presented to Parliament as early as possible. The Committee shall have the power to send for persons, documents and other records and to do all such acts as are necessary for the fullest investigation of the matters referred to it.

[128. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS- (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on Public Petitions consisting of ten members nominated by the Committee of Selection.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider the petitions referred to it under the provisions of Standing Order No. 25A (10).

(3) Where the Committee is of the view that any petition discloses an infringement of a fundamental right or other injustice by a public officer or an officer of a public corporation, local authority or other like institution, it may refer such petition, to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) for investigation and report.

(4) The Committee may, after consideration of a report made to it by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) upon the conclusion of his investigation in respect of a petition referred to him by the Committee, report to Parliament its opinion on the action to be taken on such report.

(5) The Committee shall from time to time, report to Parliament its opinion on the action to be taken in respect of petitions referred to it, together with such other observations on such petitions as it may think fit.

(6) The Committee may, when it considers necessary, appoint sub-committees of its own members to examine and report to the Committee on such petitions or reports as the Committee may direct.

(7) The Committee or any of its sub-committees shall, for the performance of its duties have the power to summon before it and question any person, call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to have access to stores and property.

(8) The quorum of the Committee shall be three members.]

* Original deleted and substituted by the third amendment to Standing Orders, November 3, 1981.

***[128A. COMMITTEE ON HIGH POSTS-**

- (1) There shall be a Committee to be designated the Committee on High Posts consisting of not more than twelve members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection to examine the suitability of any person who has been either appointed to any post or nominated to hold office in any post determine by the Cabinet of Ministers and to make recommendations in regard to such persons.
- (2) The Committee shall, for the performance of its duties, have the power to summon before it and examine any person and call for and examine any paper, book, record or other document and to do all such acts as necessary for the fullest investigation of the suitability of any such person referred to (1) above.
- (3) The Committee shall have the power to report to Parliament from time to time and shall continue its examination although Parliament may be prorogued.
- (4) The Quorum of the Committee shall be four members.]

129. IN COMMITTEES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES -

- (a) unless otherwise specified in the Standing Orders, every Committee, before the commencement of business, shall elect one of its members to be its Chairman.
- (b) the Chairman shall have an original vote and if the votes cast be equally divided he shall have a casting vote.
- ****(c) [Vacancies shall be filled by the Committee of Selection. The filling of every such vacancy shall be announced to Parliament at its next meeting.
- (d) Unless otherwise specified in the Standing Orders the quorum shall be three members and shall be the duty of the Chairman of such Committee not to function without the required quorum.]
- (e) meetings may be held although Parliament may be adjourned.
- (f) meetings shall be held whenever summoned by the Chairman.
- (g) in the absence of the Chairman such member as the Committee shall elect shall preside.
- †**(h) [Any member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings without having obtained the prior leave of such Committee, shall be deemed to have vacated his membership of such Committee :

Provided that the preceding provisions shall not apply where any meeting of such Committee is held on a day falling within the period during which such Member has, with the leave from Parliament first obtained, absented himself from Sittings of Parliament.]

* Added by the forty first amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

** Original deleted and substituted by the twenty first amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

† Added by the twenty second amendment to Standing Orders, January 8, 1985.

GENERAL RULES FOR COMMITTEES

*[130. (1) The Secretary-General or any other Officer of Parliament nominated by him shall be the Secretary to every Committee.

(2) The report of a Committee shall be presented by the Chairman or in his absence by any other member of the Committee authorised by the Chairman.

(3) A Committee and any Sub-Committee appointed by such Committees shall obtain permission from Mr. Speaker to sit outside the Parliament.

(4) A Committee shall have the power, subject to the approval of Mr. Speaker, to appoint persons with technical knowledge either to supply information which is not readily available or to elucidate matters of complexity within the Committee's order of reference and to remunerate such persons.]

**[130A. (i) Every Committee and any Sub-Committee appointed by such Committee when so authorised by the Committee shall have power to admit strangers to their meetings with the approval of the Speaker. Such strangers shall be excluded when the Committee or Sub-Committee is deliberating.

(ii) The Chairman of such Committee or Sub-Committee shall determine the procedure to be followed in the admission or strangers to the meetings.

(iii) The rules applicable in respect of visitors to the galleries of Parliament shall apply to strangers admitted to meetings of a Committee or Sub-Committee.

(iv) The Chairman of a Committee or Sub-Committee shall have the same powers as Mr. Speaker for the purpose of maintaining order at the meetings of the Committee or Sub-Committee as the case may be.]

PROCEDURE IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PARLIAMENT ON SCHEDULES TO APPROPRIATION BILLS

131. (1) The Chairman shall call the title of each Programme under each Head of Expenditure on which a motion may be made to reduce or omit any Project or Object appearing in the printed estimates under that Programme and the question to be proposed thereon shall be "That Programme.....be reduced by Rs.in respect of Object" (or "in respect of Project.....").

(2) When a question has been proposed for the reduction or omission of a Project or Object members shall speak to such question only, until it has been disposed of.

* Original deleted and substituted by the forty second amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

** Added by the forty third amendment to Standing Orders, February 26, 1993.

(3) When several motions are offered to the same Programme they shall be called upon in the order in which the Projects to which they relate appear in the printed Estimates.

(4) When several motions are offered to the same Project or Object in a Programme the smallest reduction shall be first proposed and a motion to omit the Project or Object shall only be proposed after all motions for reductions have been disposed of.

(5) After a question has been proposed from the Chair for reducing or omitting any Project or Object, no motion shall be made or debate allowed upon any preceding Project or Object.

(6) After a question has been proposed from the Chair for the omission or reduction of any Project no motion shall be made for the reduction or omission of any item in that Project.

(7) No motion for an increase in the expenditure of a Programme, Project or Object shall be made except by a Minister after notice and that notice shall amongst other things, set out to what sum it is proposed to raise the expenditure on that Programme and that the sanction of the Cabinet of Ministers had been obtained for the increase.

(8) If no motion for a reduction or omission of any Project or Object in the Programme be offered or when all such motions have been disposed of the question shall be proposed from the Chair "That the sum of Rs.....for programme " (or "That the reduced sum of Rs.....for Programme.....") "be inserted in the Schedule". And once that question has been proposed from the Chair, no further debate on individual Projects or Objects in that Programme will be permitted.

(9) Notwithstanding anything in Standing Order 24, motions for the reduction of any Programme, Project or Object shall require notice.

EXCESSES

132. (1) No motion in respect of a grant of money for the service of a financial year already ended (hereinafter called an Excess) will be entertained except in the circumstances set out in paragraph (5) of this Order.

(2) It shall be an instruction to the Committee on Public Accounts that they do examine any Excess on any Project of a Programme and state in their report whether the Excess is on the Programme or only on one or more Projects of that Programme.

(3) If the Excess is on one or more Projects only, the Committee shall inquire whether the Excess was incurred with proper authority and with due regard to economy and if satisfied shall report accordingly and no further sanction for that Excess shall be required.

Provided that on any Excess on any personal emoluments project the Committee shall also satisfy themselves that the expenditure was in accordance with the existing salary scales and involved no element of personal favouritism and if so satisfied shall report accordingly.

(4) If the Committee on Public Accounts is not satisfied they shall report that they have disallowed the Excess or so much of the Excess they think fit.

(5) Whenever the Committee on Public Accounts have reported either that an Excess has been incurred on a Programme or that they have allowed certain items of expenditure, a motion to resolve Parliament into a Committee to consider a grant to make good such an Excess or such items have been disallowed may be put on the Order Paper by the Minister in charge of the subject of finance for consideration on a day to be fixed by that Minister.

Provided that no such motion shall be entertained after 31st December of the year next but one after that to which the Excess relates.

(6) Nothing in this Order shall diminish the power of the Committee on Public Accounts to disallow any item of expenditure, whether or not an Excess is involved, incurred without proper authority and the procedure set out in paragraph (5) of this Order shall apply to any such disallowance.

***[132A.** (1) No motion, in respect of any Advance Account Activity, the maximum limits of which are exceeded or the minimum limits of which are not complied with in a manner authorised by law (hereinafter referred to as non-compliance with Advance Account Limits) in any Financial year, will be entertained except in the circumstances set out in paragraph (4) of this Order.

(2) It shall be an instruction to the Committee on Public Accounts that they do examine every instance, reported by the Auditor-General, of the maximum limits of an Advance Account Activity being exceeded, or a minimum limit of an Advance Account Activity not being complied with. The Committee shall determine whether the non-compliance with Advance Account Activity Limits, is in accordance with the law. Where the reported non-Compliance with Advance Accounts Limits is not in accordance with the law, the Committee on Public Accounts shall determine whether such non-compliance with Advance Accounts Limits should be authorised or not.

(3) It shall be an instruction to the Committee on Public Accounts that they do examine any unauthorised working losses on Advance Accounts Activities where such losses have not been settled in full before the end of the financial year to which such losses relate, and which have been reported on by the Auditor-General in his Report to Parliament.

(4) Whenever the Committee on Public Accounts have recommended whether or not any non-compliance with the limits on any Advance Account Activity should be authorised or when the Committee have recommended whether or not unauthorised losses in any Advance Account Activity should be authorized, a motion to resolve Parliament into a Committee to consider such recommendations may be put on the Order Paper by the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance for consideration on a date to be fixed by that Minister.]

PUBLIC MONEY

133. Parliament will not proceed upon the consideration of any motion, Bill or amendment thereto authorising disposal or imposition of charges upon the Consolidated Fund or other funds of the Republic or the imposition of any tax or the repeal, augmentation or reduction of any tax for the time being in force unless introduced by a Minister who shall, before making such motion, introducing such Bill or moving such amendment, signify to Parliament the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to such motion, Bill or amendment.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

134. Any member may give a notice of motion for the amendment of the Standing Orders. Such notice shall be accompanied by a draft of the proposed amendment and the motion when proposed and seconded shall stand referred without any question being proposed thereon to the Committee on Standing Orders and no further proceedings shall be taken on any such motion until the Committee on Standing Orders has reported thereon.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

135. Any one or more of these Standing Orders may be suspended on a motion made after notice by a majority of members at any meeting to enable any special business to be considered or disposed of :

Provided that a motion under this Order unless proposed by a Minister of the Cabinet shall be decided by a division and shall be declared lost if it appears that less than twenty members voted in the majority in support of the motion.

GENERAL AUTHORITY OF MR. SPEAKER

136. Mr. Speaker shall have power to regulate the conduct of business in parliament in all matters not provided for in these Standing Orders.

137. Mr. Speaker shall be responsible for the management of buildings, security arrangements and the general administration of the Chamber.

138. Anything which by these Standing Orders may be done by Mr. Speaker may be done by the Deputy Speaker or Deputy Chairman of Committees or by a member elected by Parliament presiding in the place of Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN'S PANEL

139. Mr. Speaker shall nominate at the commencement of every session a Chairman's panel of not less than four members to act as temporary Chairman of Committees when requested by the Deputy Speaker or in his absence by the Deputy Chairman of Committees and may vary the constitution of the Panel from time to time. Anything which may be done by the Deputy Speaker may be done by a temporary Chairman when presiding in the place of the Deputy Speaker. From this panel Mr. Speaker shall appoint the Chairman of each Standing Committee and may change the Chairman so appointed from time to time.

EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS IN PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY

140. No member shall appear before Parliament or before any committee thereof as Attorney-at-Law for any party or in any capacity for which he is to receive a fee or reward.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

141. The sum to be paid or tendered for the expenses of any person who is summoned to attend or to produce any document shall be the sum which, if that person were a witness attending Court, would be payable to him in accordance with the regulations for the time being in force.

RESIDUARY POWERS

142. All matters not specifically provided for in these Standing Orders and all questions relating to the detailed working of these Standing Orders shall be regulated in such manner as Mr. Speaker may, from time to time, direct.

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