

# Part 5 Key Parliamentary Interventions



## Part 5: Key Parliamentary Interventions



### Questions

Questions are posed to the government during Question Hour. It enables parliamentarians to:

- Seek information
- Solicit the government stance on a particular issue
- Obtain commitments from the government
- Get views of the government on an issue
- Possibly debunk claims made by the government outside of Parliament
- To raise an important issue and so on
- Wrong or inaccurate answers can be seen as an attempt to mislead the House, leading to raising of questions of privilege





There are three types of questions- starred, unstarred and short-notice questions.



1) Starred Questions

Questions for which an MP desires an oral answer to be given by the Minister on the floor of the House. This exercise allows for supplementary questions to be asked in the House.



2) Unstarred Questions

Questions to which written answers are tabled by the concerned Ministers in the House.



3) Short-Notice Questions

These types of questions requires less advance notice.









#### Half an Hour Discussion

- Raised by an MP, when a recently answered parliamentary question, requires further discussion or expansion from the Minister concerned
- Not necessary that the discussion should last only half an hour

#### Short Duration Discussions

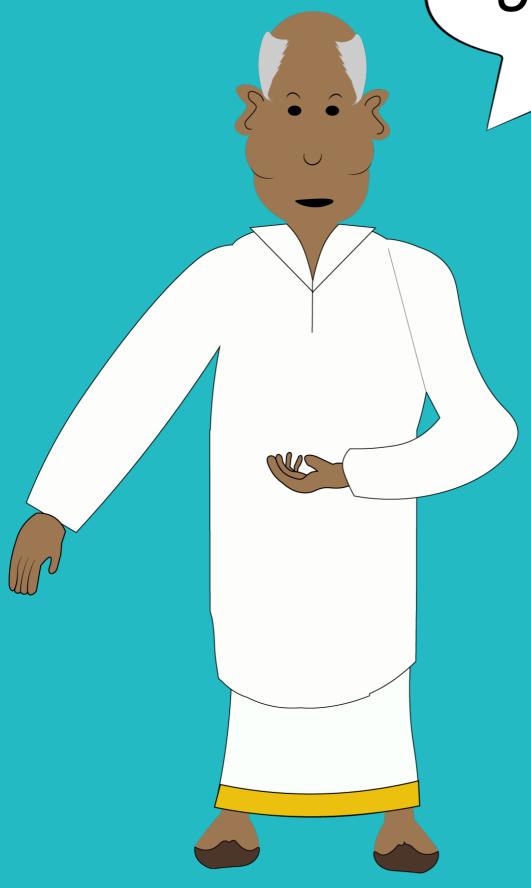
- Tool for focused debates on <u>urgent public and nationally important themes</u>
- MPs speak on the issue and finally, the relevant Minister responds
- · Simply a discussion and does not result in any motion being voted upon

#### Calling Attention Motion

- Used to call the attention of a specific Minister to an urgent matter
- Minister responds to the statement of an MP



I want to briefly and quickly raise an area of concern





#### Zero Hour

Officially, there is no such term as 'Zero Hour' but it is used in common parlance to refer to an hour set aside for MPs to raise issues, mostly in their individual capacity. MPs usually raise issues through Rule 377/Special Mention etc

# Special Mention (Rajya Sabha)/ Rule 377 (Lok Sabha)

- Enable MPs to direct the attention of the government to urgent matters
- Usually also accompanied by a proposed solution
- Relevant Minister is also supposed to respond, usually done in writing through a letter to the concerned MP





# Motions to Criticise

Adjournment Motion	No Confidence Motion	Censure Motion
<ul> <li>Moved to critique or express displeasure towards the government</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Moved against the         entire Council of         Ministers and implies         that the Council         does not have the         confidence of the         House</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Moved to express         criticism or censure         towards either one         Minister, a group of         Ministers or the entire         Council of Ministers</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Only used in the <u>Lok</u></li> <li><u>Sabha</u></li> </ul>	Only used in the Lok    Sabha	Used in both Houses
<ul> <li>If the motion is successful, the House adjourns its proceedings for that sitting or till a specified date</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>If successfully         passed, it leads to         the resignation of the         government</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Its passing does not lead to the resignation of any Ministers</li> </ul>



# Disruptions

Although not an official, legitimate or even permitted act, disrupting parliamentary proceedings are very much an integral part of Parliament

For Opposition parties, disrupting proceedings is not an arbitrary act. They are carried out to protest against specific acts, statements etc. of the government

The Presiding Officer (PO) has three options in such a scenario:

- Appeal to protesting MPs to let Parliament function smoothly
- Ignore the disruption to get parliamentary business done
- Adjourn proceedings for a short break
- Take action against disrupting MPs

When an entire session gets affected because of repeated disruptions, it is called a "washout".