

## **STANDING ORDERS 24-35**

### **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

#### **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

*Order of business*

24. (1) The ordinary daily routine of business in the House shall be as follows except where priority has been given previously by the House to other orders:

- (a) Statements by Members;
- (b) Statements by Ministers;
- (c) Oral Questions;
- (d) Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees;
- (e) Tabling of Documents;
- (f) Notices of Motion;
- (g) Answers to Questions for which notice has been given;
- (h) Petitions.

(2) The order of business for the consideration of the House day by day, after the above daily routine, shall be as follows, except on Wednesday:

- (a) Third Readings;
- (b) Committee of the Whole on reports of select committees;
- (c) Committee of the Whole on Bills read a second time;

- (d) Second Readings;
- (e) Motions of which notices have been given by the Government;
- (f) Motions of which notices have been given by Private Members.

(3) On Wednesday except when otherwise ordered by the House, after motion, of which due notice shall have been given, the following shall be the order of business:

- (a) Motions of which notices have been given by Private Members;
- (b) Motions of which notices have been given by the Government;
- (c) Members' Orders;
- (d) Government Orders.

(1951 SO 14 amended 1999 & 2005)

*Statements by Members*

25. (1) The time allotted for "Statements by Members" under Routine Proceedings shall be limited to 6 minutes.

(2) A Member, other than a Minister of the Crown, may be recognized to make a statement for not more than one minute.

(3) A Member may make a statement about any subject of interest or concern to him or her.

(4) The subject matter of a Member's Statement may be an anniversary, historic event, some particular accomplishment, the death of a notable person, matters of local, provincial, national or international significance of a non-contentious nature.

(5) Statements by Members shall not be used to comment on aspects of provincial governmental policy or to reflect on a decision or direction of the House.

(6) Statements shall not pose a question but rather express the opinion of the Member.

(7) Statements are not debatable, do not lead to the introduction of a motion and are not responded to by any other Member.

(SO 25 added 1999)

*Oral questions*

26. (1) The ordinary daily routine proceeding "Oral Questions" provided in Standing Order 24 shall not last more than 30 minutes, including supplementary questions and points of order. In this period questions on matters of urgency may be addressed orally to Ministers of the Crown provided, however, that the Speaker shall disallow any question which he or she does not consider urgent or of public importance; provided also that if in the opinion of the Minister to whom a question is addressed it requires a lengthy answer, he or she may require it to be placed on the Order Paper; and provided also that the Minister to whom a question is directed may take such oral question as notice to be answered orally at a later sitting, but where any such reserved question requires as its answer a lengthy statement, such statement shall be given under the ordinary daily routine proceeding "Statements by Ministers".

(2) In the discretion of the Speaker, a reasonable number of supplementary questions arising out of a Minister's reply to an oral question may be asked by any Member.

(3) In putting any oral question, no argument or opinion is to be offered nor any facts stated

except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question, the Minister is not to debate the matter to which it refers.

(4) Oral questions must not be prefaced by the reading of letters, telegrams, newspaper extracts or preambles of any kind.

(5) A Minister may in his or her discretion decline to answer any question.

(6) The Speaker's rulings relating to oral questions are not debatable or subject to appeal.

(1951 SO 31 amended 1999)

*Government orders*

27. (1) All items standing on the orders of the day (except Government Orders) shall be taken up according to the procedure assigned to each on the Order Paper.

(2) Whenever Government business has precedence, Government Orders may be called in such sequence as the Government may think fit.

(1951 SO 16)

*Dropped orders*

28. (1) Questions put by Members and notices of motions not taken up when called may (upon request of the Government) be allowed to stand and retain their precedence; otherwise they will disappear from the Order Paper. They may however be renewed.

(2) Orders not proceeded with when called, upon the like request, may be allowed to stand retaining their precedence; otherwise they shall be dropped and be placed on the Order Paper for the next sitting after those of the same class at a similar stage.

(3) All orders not disposed of at the adjournment of the House shall be postponed until the next sitting day without a motion to that effect.

(1951 SO 17)

*Bills reported from  
Committee*

29. Bills reported after Second Reading from any standing or select committee shall be placed on the orders of the day following the reception of the report, for reference to a Committee of the Whole House, in their proper order next after Bills reported from Committees of the Whole House.

(1951 SO 18)

*Effect of Wednesday  
adjournment*

30. If at the hour of 5 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, or at the time of the adjournment of the House, a motion on the Order Paper be under consideration, that question shall stand first on the Order Paper of the following day, next after orders to which a special precedence has been assigned by standing order or order of the House.

(1951 SO 19)

*When Committee of  
Supply open*

31. When the Committee of Supply, and Ways and Means are open, they shall have precedence of all other Government Orders on Tuesday and Thursday, and on the order being called the question shall be proposed by the Speaker that "I do now leave the Chair."

(1951 SO 20 amended 1999)

*Orders of the Day motion*

32. A motion for reading the orders of the day shall have preference to any motion before the House.

(1951 SO 21)

*Motion to adjourn*

33. A motion to adjourn (except when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance), shall always be in order, but no second motion to the same effect shall be made until after some intermediate proceeding has been had.

(1951 SO 22)

*Privilege*

34. Whenever any matter of privilege arises, it shall be taken into consideration immediately.

(1951 SO 15)

*Prorogation*

35. A prorogation of the House shall not have the effect of nullifying an order or address of the House for Returns or papers; but all papers and Returns ordered at one session of the House, if not complied with during the session shall be brought down during the following session, without renewal of the order.

(1951 SO 79)