

STANDING ORDERS 51-56

QUESTIONS, NOTICES

Written questions

51. (1) Questions may be placed on the Order Paper seeking information from the Ministers relating to public affairs; and from other Members relating to any Bill, motion or other public matter connected with the business of the House, in which such Members may be concerned; but in putting any such question or in replying to the same, 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 matter to which the same refers shall not be debated.

(2) If in the opinion of the Speaker a question on the Order Paper put to a Minister be of such a nature as to require a lengthy reply he or she may, upon the request of the Government, direct same to stand as a notice of motion, and to be transferred to its proper place as such upon the Order Paper, the Clerk of the House being authorized to amend the same as to matter of form.

(3) If a question is of such a nature that in the opinion of the Minister who is to furnish the reply, such reply should be in the form of a Return, and the Minister states that he or she has no objection to laying such Return upon the Table of the House, his or her statement shall, unless otherwise ordered by the House, be deemed an order of the House to that effect.

(4) Notice of every question shall be given by reducing the question to writing and handing 4 copies thereof to the Clerk, and if not ruled out in accordance with these Standing Orders, the question shall appear on the Order Paper on the next day.

(5) The Clerk of the House shall cause

written answers to questions which had been placed upon the Order Paper to be printed in the Verbatim Report of the day on which such answers are tabled unless such answers are of a lengthy or voluminous nature in which case the Clerk shall make them a Return.

(1951 SO 25)

Questions can not be addressed to Speaker

52. Questions dealing with matters within the jurisdiction of the Speaker are out of order. If however Members write to the Speaker and inquire about matters placed under his or her control, the Speaker is bound to give the information required.

(1951 SO 26)

Questions withdrawn

53. A question may be withdrawn from the Order Paper either by a written notice by the Member putting the question, to the Clerk of the House; or by the Member rising in his or her place in the House and informing the Speaker that he or she desires the question to be dropped.

(1951 SO 27)

Speaker's supervision

54. The Speaker may rule out any question which violates the privileges of Parliament in the same way as he or she deals with irregularities in motions and amendments. The Speaker may make an alteration in the question or refer it back to the Member for correction. A Member may call the attention of the House to the matter.

(1951 SO 28)

Notice

55. Notice shall be given at a previous sitting of a motion for leave to present a Bill, resolution or address, or for placing a question on the Order Paper; but this rule shall not apply to Bills after their introduction, or to Private Bills, or to the times of meeting and adjournment of the House. Such notice shall be laid upon the Table before 5 o'clock or 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon, as the case may be.

(1951 SO 29 amended 1999)

Unanimous consent

56. A motion may in case of urgent and pressing necessity previously explained by the mover, be made by unanimous consent of the House without notice having been given under Standing Order 55.

(1951 SO 30)