

CHAPTER VIII. - HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Discussion on a matter of public importance arising out of answer to questions.

52. (1) The Speaker shall allot half an hour before the scheduled time for the close of business on any two working days of each week of the session for raising discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a question in the current session or in the immediately preceding session of the House and the elucidation of the answer regarding any material fact is necessary irrespective of the fact whether the question was answered orally or the answer was laid on the table of the House :

Provided further that Speaker may admit to raise discussion on a matter which has been a subject of a question immediately before the preceding session.

Provided that if the other business set down for the day is concluded earlier than half an hour before the scheduled time the period of half an hour shall commence from the time such other business is concluded.

(2) A member wishing to raise a matter shall give notice in writing to the Secretary two days in advance of the day on which the matter is desired to be raised, and shall shortly specify the point or points that he wishes to raise :

Provided that the notice shall be accompanied by an explanatory note stating the reasons for raising discussion on the matter in question :

Provided further that the notice shall be supported by the signature of at least two other members :

Provided also that the Speaker may with the consent of the Minister concerned, waive the requirements concerning the period of notice.

(3) The Speaker shall decide whether the matter is of sufficient public importance to be put down for discussion and may not admit a notice which, in his opinion, seeks to revise the policy of the Government.

(4) If more than two notices have been received and admitted by the Speaker, the Secretary shall hold a ballot with a view to drawing two notices, and the notices shall be put down in the order in which they were received in point of time :

Provided that if any matter put down for discussion on a particular day is not disposed of on that day, it shall not be set down for any further day, unless the member so desires in which case it shall be included in the ballot for the next available day.

(5) There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting. The member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister concerned shall reply shortly. Any member who has previously intimated to the Speaker may be permitted to put a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact.