



National Assembly of Pakistan



Motions & Resolutions

The Parliament or its Houses express their opinion on important issues, matters of sufficient public interest or the breach of privilege either of a member or the House or a Committee thereof through Motions. A brief account of various types of Motions is given below.

Motion of Thanks on President's Address

The President may address either House or both Houses of Parliament assembled together in each parliamentary year in accordance with Article 56.

On a Motion of Thanks moved by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and seconded by any Minister or member, both the Houses, in their separate sittings, discuss the matters referred to in the President's address. The scope of discussion on the address is very wide and members are free to speak on a variety of issues, both national and international. The Speaker allots time to members for debate on the Motion of Thanks.

Before the Assembly commences or continues discussion on the President's Address, a Government Bill or other business of formal character may be transacted, but no Adjournment Motion shall be taken up during the discussion. (Rule 66)

A Minister, whether he has previously taken part in the discussion or not, has a general right of defending the Government, under rule 65, and rebutting points raised during the discussion in addition to his right to reply at the end of the discussion. Thereafter, the Motion of Thanks is put to vote of the House.

The President may also send a message to either House of the Parliament under Article 56(2). The Speaker, on receipt, reads the message to the House and gives necessary directions with regard to the procedures for consideration of the required matter. (Rule 67)

Question of Privilege

After the disposal of leave applications, a member may, with the consent of the Speaker, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the Assembly or of a Committee thereof in the manner prescribed in rules 95 to 101.

A member who wishes to raise a question of privilege should give a notice in writing to the Secretary before the commencement of the sitting on the day he intends to raise the question. However, in case of urgency, the Speaker may allow it to be raised at any time during the course of a sitting after the disposal of questions.

If the Speaker holds the motion in order, the Assembly may consider and decide a question of privilege or may refer it for report to the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges. If a motion to that effect is moved and adopted by the House, the House decides whether a breach of the privilege, as alleged in the motion, has occurred or not.

Adjournment Motion

With Speaker's consent, a member may move a motion, under rule 109, for adjournment of the normal business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance. An Adjournment Motion is, ordinarily, admissible if it raises an issue of urgent public importance, relates substantially to one definite issue, is restricted to a matter of recent occurrence and satisfies such other conditions as are laid down in rule 111.

The Speaker determines the admissibility of each Adjournment Motion. If the Speaker is of the opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall ask whether the member has the leave of the House to move the motion; and, if objection is taken, he shall request the members in favour of the leave being granted to rise in their seats. If less than majority of the members present rises, the Speaker shall inform the member that he does not have the leave of the House, but if majority of the members present rises, the Speaker shall announce that leave is granted and then, under rule 113, the motion is taken up before the last Calling Attention Notice for discussion for not more than two hours on such day, within the same session, as the Speaker may fix. However, under rule 117, the time for each member's speech should not exceed 10 minutes in duration.

Discussion on Matters of Public Importance

Before taking up last Calling Attention Notice, the Speaker may allot last half an hour of a sitting on private members' day for raising discussion on a matter of urgent public importance, including matters which have been the subject of a recent question.

A member who wishes to raise a matter, is required, under rule 87, to give notice in writing to the Secretary three days in advance of the day on which the matter is desired to be raised. The notice should briefly specify the point or points he/she wishes to raise and should be accompanied by an explanatory note stating the reason for raising discussion on the matter.

Without a formal motion or voting, the member, who has given notice, makes a short statement and the Minister concerned furnishes reply.

Calling Attention Notice

Rule 88 contains provision for a Calling Attention Notice to draw the attention of a Minister towards any matter of urgent public importance. Through this notice, any member can request a Minister that he should pay attention to a particular matter of national importance and take necessary steps. This notice should be given in writing to Secretary one day before the day on which the notice is to be considered.

No member can give more than one calling attention notice for any sitting. Further, not more than two such matters can be raised at the same sitting. In the event of more than one matter being presented for the same day, priority is given to the matter which, in the Speaker's opinion, is more urgent and important.

On the appointed day, with the Speaker's permission, the member presents the matter before the House to which the relevant Minister gives his answer in the shape of a brief statement or asks for time to make a statement at a later hour or date.

Resolutions

The Parliament or its Houses often express their opinion or make recommendations or convey a message on some definite important issue in the form of resolutions. Through its resolutions, sometimes, the House commends, urges or requests an action or calls attention to a matter or situation for consideration by the Government. Under rule 157 any member or a Minister may move a resolution relating to a matter of general public interest.

However, as per rule 160, a resolution must relate to substantially one definite issue, which is primarily the concern of the Government or in which the Government has substantial financial interest.

Under rule 158, in the case of a private resolution, seven days notice has to be given whereas in the case of a resolution, moved by the Minister, three days notice is required. The resolutions are set down on the Orders of the Day after determining their priority by balloting. A time limit is fixed for each speech on a resolution.

Rule 161 vests in the Speaker the authority to decide about the admissibility of a resolution. However, if the member in whose name a resolution stands in the Orders of the Day is absent, under rule 162(2), the resolution shall be dropped.

Classification

The resolutions may be classified into four categories on the basis of who moves them in the Assembly or their constitutional position. The types of resolutions are:

1. **Government Resolutions:** When a resolution is moved by a Minister, it is often called a resolution of the Government.
2. **Private Members' Resolutions:** A resolution which is moved by a member, other than a Minister, is called a private member's resolution.
3. **Resolutions not mentioned in the Constitution:** Often referred to as non-statutory resolutions, these resolutions are moved either by a member or a Minister on a matter of general public interest and importance. These resolutions are dealt with under rules 157 to 169.
4. **Resolutions mentioned in the Constitution:** A resolution, given notice of by a Member/Minister, in pursuance of a provision of the Constitution is called a constitutional Resolution. Resolutions mentioned in the Constitution include: Resolution for the removal or impeachment of the President (Article 47), resolution for vote of confidence in the Prime Minister (Article 91 (7)), resolution for vote of no-confidence against the Prime Minister (Article 95), resolution for removal of Speaker (Article 53(7)(c), resolution for the disapproval of Ordinances (Article 89), resolution for the approval of a Proclamation of emergency (Article 232) Rules 170 to 174 deal with these resolutions.

