

THE REPUBLIC OF RUEKEHI



PARLIAMENTARY STANDING ORDERS

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PART ONE: PREAMBLE

1. Title

These Orders shall be cited as the *Parliamentary Standing Orders of Ruekehi, 2025 Edition*.

2. Application

- (i) Without prejudice to the provisions of the Constitution, these Standing Orders shall apply to all matters concerning the procedures for conducting the business of Parliament.
- (ii) Where a matter or proceeding is not expressly provided for in these Orders, the Speaker shall determine the procedure to be followed, guided by the Constitution, any other written law, existing Standing Orders, past rulings of Speakers, and the customs and conventions of good parliamentary practice.

The Speaker's ruling in such matters shall be recorded in the *Book of Rulings (Hansard)* and shall serve as a precedent for future parliamentary conduct.

3. Interpretation

In these Orders, unless the context requires otherwise:

Assembly – means the national legislative body of Ruekehi.

Resolution – means a formal decision or statement adopted by the Assembly on a specific issue.

Flag – means the official flag of the Assembly of Ruekehi, symbolizing legislative authority.

Party – means a political party with representation in Parliament.

Gazette – means the official publication of the Government of Ruekehi.

Motion – means a proposal submitted by a Member, Committee, or Government for debate and decision by the Assembly.

The Republic – means the Republic of Ruekehi.

Committee – means any parliamentary committee established under these Orders.

Committee of the Whole House – means a session where all Members sit as a committee to consider bills or major matters.

Special Committee – means a temporary committee formed by the Speaker to deal with a specific issue.

Budget Committee – means a committee composed of all Members to handle national budget and planning matters.

Planning Committee – means a general committee for deliberating short-term and long-term national plans.

Opposition – means the minority parties officially designated to provide oversight and alternative policy proposals.

Constitution – means the Constitution of the Republic of Rukhhi.

Clerk – means the principal administrative officer of Parliament.

Sitting – means a single-day meeting of Parliament starting with a prayer and ending with an adjournment.

Leader of the Opposition – means the officially appointed leader of the minority side in Parliament.

Leader of Government Business – means the Prime Minister or designated Member in charge of government business in Parliament.

Book of Rulings – means the official record of procedural decisions made by the Speaker.

Parliamentary Privileges – means the rights, powers, and immunities of Parliament and its Members.

Parliamentary Precincts – means all buildings, offices, and areas allocated to Parliament.

Life of Parliament – means the period from its first sitting after an election until its dissolution.

Member – means any individual elected or appointed to serve in Parliament.

Session – means a series of sittings within the same calendar period.

Guest – means anyone not authorized to participate in the business of Parliament.

Government Whip – means a Member designated by the ruling party to manage business and party discipline.

Opposition Whip – means a Member designated to manage the affairs of the opposition in Parliament.

Sergeant-at-Arms – means the official responsible for maintaining order and carrying the Mace.

Opposition Spokesperson – means a Member designated by the Leader of the Opposition to speak on behalf of a particular policy area.

Chairperson – includes the Speaker, or any Member presiding over a sitting or committee.

Petition – means a formal request presented to Parliament by a Member on behalf of individuals or groups.

Order Paper – means the official agenda of a Parliamentary sitting.

President – means the Head of State of Ruekehi.

Explanatory Memorandum – means a written note explaining the rationale, purpose, and cost of proposed legislation.

Subsidiary Legislation – includes all rules, regulations, and directives made under authority delegated by statute.

Private Business – means any matter brought to Parliament by a Member or Committee.

Government Business – means matters submitted by the Government or Attorney General.

Mace – means the ceremonial staff that symbolizes the authority of the Parliament.

Speaker – means the elected presiding officer of the Parliament.

Official Record – means the verbatim transcript or official summary of Parliamentary proceedings.

Commission – means the Parliamentary Service Commission or equivalent body.

Minister – means a Member appointed by the President to head a government ministry.

National Anthem – means the official anthem of the Republic of Ruekehi.

PART TWO: LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE

4. The Speaker

The Speaker shall be the Head of Parliament and shall perform their duties in accordance with the Constitution, the law, and these Standing Orders.

5. Duties of the Speaker

There shall be a Speaker of the House who will perform the following duties: -

- (i) Presiding over debates: The Speaker presides over debates in the House, ensuring that discussions are conducted in an orderly and fair manner. The Speaker calls on members to speak, enforces the rules of debate, and maintains order in the chamber.
- (ii) Maintaining order: The Speaker is responsible for maintaining order and decorum in the House. This includes ensuring that members adhere to the rules of parliamentary procedure and taking action if there are disruptions or breaches of decorum.
- (iii) Upholding parliamentary rules: the Speaker is the guardian of parliamentary rules and traditions. The Speaker interprets and applies the rules of the House, ensuring that debates and proceedings are conducted according to established procedures.
- (iv) Casting vote: In the event of a tie in a vote, the Speaker has the casting vote.
- (v) Selecting speakers: The Speaker selects members to speak during debates, ensuring that different views are represented and that debates are conducted in a balanced manner.
- (vi) Chairing committees: The Speaker may also chair certain committees in the House, such as the Committee of the Whole House, which considers bills in detail.
- (vii) Protecting the rights of MPs: the Speaker is responsible for protecting the rights of Members of Parliament (MPs) and ensuring that all MPs have the opportunity to participate in debates and proceedings.

6. Secretary of the House

The Secretary to the House will be responsible for performing the following duties: -

- (i) Prepares agenda of the day, attends all sittings of the House, and manages time during debate.

- (ii) **Procedural advice:** the Secretary provides procedural guidance and advice to the Speaker, Members of Parliament (MPs), and parliamentary staff on matters relating to parliamentary procedure, rules, and practices. The Secretary ensures that parliamentary proceedings are conducted in accordance with established rules and conventions.
- (iii) **Record-keeping:** The Secretary is responsible for maintaining accurate records of debates, decisions, and other proceedings of the House of Commons. This includes preparing the official minutes of the House and keeping a record of votes and resolutions.
- (iv) **Table of the House:** The Secretary is responsible for the Table of the House, which includes documents and papers presented to the House, as well as official reports and publications. The Secretary ensures that these documents are properly recorded and distributed to members.
- (v) **Advising on legislative process:** The Secretary provides advice on the legislative process, including the drafting of bills, amendments, and other legislative instruments. The Secretary ensures that proposed legislation is in proper form and complies with parliamentary rules and procedures.
- (vi) **Secretary of Committees:** The Secretary may also serve as the Secretary of Committees, providing support to parliamentary committees in their work of scrutinizing legislation, conducting inquiries, and examining government policies. The Secretary assists committees in drafting reports and managing their proceedings.
- (vii) Coordinate administrative issues to ensure the smooth running of the business.

7. The Government in Office

The government in office will comprise members of the majority party, including the following ministers: -

- (i) The prime minister is the leader of government business responsible for the fair conduct of the debate and ensuring the sequence of events remains in accordance with established time constraints.
- (ii) Other ministers in such ministries as foreign affairs, defence, finance, interior and justice, and works, transport and communications, who will be responsible for responding and shedding light on specific issues under their jurisdiction.

8. The Shadow Government

- (i) The shadow government will comprise the minority party led by the shadow prime minister, who will be the leader of the opposition, assisted by the same number of ministers from the same sectors as those in the government in office.
- (ii) The main objective of the shadow government will be to provide an alternative view of government policies, as well as to play an oversight function to the government in office.

9. The Independents

- (i) The independent members of the house will represent various constituencies from society, such as traditional leaders, religious community, national media, business community, political parties, and civil society organizations.
- (ii) The main objective of the independent members will be to represent the interests of their respective portfolios and to ensure they are taken on board during the policy-making process.

10. The Control Organisation

Other members of the control organisation will be part of the house as deemed appropriate. Their fundamental role will be overseeing the process so that it is carried out according to the intended purposes.

PART THREE: RULES OF DEBATE IN THE HOUSE

11. When to Speak in the House

A Member may speak in the House under the following circumstances:

- (i) During plenary debates on motions, bills, or reports;
- (ii) When presenting or moving motions, including amendments or private Members' statements;
- (iii) When seeking clarification or raising a point of order or point of procedure;
- (iv) During designated Question Time directed at Ministers or Government representatives;
- (v) When delivering ministerial statements or statements of national importance;
- (vi) When making personal explanations or matters of privilege as permitted by the Speaker;
- (vii) When participating in deliberations of a Committee of the Whole House.

12. Recognising a Member to Speak ("Catching the Speaker's Eye")

A Member wishing to be recognised to speak shall do so through one of the following mechanisms:

- (i) By raising their hand from their seat;
- (ii) By submitting a written request to the Speaker or Clerk ahead of the debate;
- (iii) By registering their name in the official speakers' list maintained by the Clerk;
- (iv) By rising in place at an appropriate opportunity and awaiting the Speaker's acknowledgement;
- (v) During Committee of the Whole House, address the Chairperson in accordance with established rules.
- (vi) The Speaker shall allocate speaking time fairly, considering political balance, order of precedence, urgency of the matter, and relevance.

13. Decorum and Order During Debate

- (i) A Member shall rise only when recognized by the Speaker or Chair and shall address all remarks through the Speaker.
- (ii) No Member shall speak more than once on the same question except:

- In Committee of the Whole House;
 - With the leave of the Speaker;
 - When making a point of clarification or raising a point of order.
- (iii) A Member must confine remarks to the subject under discussion and avoid repetition or irrelevance.

14. Speaking Time

Speaking time for each member is usually limited to ensure that all members have the opportunity to participate:

- (i) Debate - each member will use 2 minutes
- (ii) Clarifications on raised issues - each member will use 3 minutes
- (iii) Motions – 7 minutes for presenting and 3 minutes for winding up
- (iv) Reports – 7 minutes for presenting and 3 minutes for winding up

15. Conduct and Discipline in the Chamber

- (i) Members shall at all times maintain order, dignity, and proper decorum in the House and during its proceedings.
- (ii) The use of abusive, offensive, defamatory, or inflammatory language is strictly prohibited.
- (iii) Members shall not refer to matters that are sub judice (under judicial consideration) in a manner that may prejudice ongoing legal proceedings.
- (iv) No Member shall use the name of the Head of State mockingly, disrespectfully, or in a way that may bring the Office into disrepute.
- (v) Members shall direct all speeches and remarks to the Speaker and avoid direct confrontation or personal attacks against other Members.
- (vi) The Speaker may at any time intervene to preserve order and decorum. The Speaker shall have the power to:
 - a) Caution or reprimand a Member for minor breaches;
 - b) Order a Member to withdraw any inappropriate language or remarks;
 - c) Suspend a Member from the House for the remainder of the sitting day for persistent disorderly conduct;
 - d) Name and expel a Member from the Chamber for a specified period, depending on the gravity of misconduct.

- (vii) A Member who has been ordered to withdraw or suspended shall do so immediately and without protest. Failure to comply may result in further disciplinary action.
- (viii) The Speaker's ruling on matters of discipline shall be final and binding, subject only to review by the Committee on Standing Orders upon formal written appeal.

16. Points of order

Any Member may rise on a point of order at any time during the speech of another Member if they believe that parliamentary rules are being breached and indicate the standing order that has been breached. The Speaker may respond, immediately or at a later stage, and the decision is final.

17. Giving false information in the House

Despite the freedom of speech enjoyed, members are strictly prohibited from giving false information in the House. If false statements are provided, a member will be required to substantiate or withdraw the statement; failure to do so will result in a punishment.

18. Language of proceedings

All proceedings of the House shall be conducted in English.

19. Members to address the Speaker

Members usually address their remarks to the Speaker rather than directly to other members. This practice helps maintain order and decorum in the chamber.

20. Order of speakers

Members are typically called to speak in a predetermined order, often based on a speaker's list. The Speaker or presiding officer decides the order of speakers, with government and opposition members usually alternating.

21. Speeches may not be read

No Member shall read a speech, but a Member may read short extracts from written and printed papers in support of an argument and may refresh memory by reference to notes. Provided that the Speaker may allow a member to read a speech in particular cases where the Speaker is satisfied that this is necessary for precision in the statement of facts.

22. Responsibility for the statement of fact

A Member shall be responsible for the accuracy of any facts which the Member alleges to be true and may be required to substantiate any such facts instantly. Suppose a member has sufficient reason to convince the Speaker that the Member is unable to substantiate the allegations instantly. In that case, the Speaker shall require that such Member substantiates the allegations not later than the next sitting day; failure to do so shall result in the Member being deemed to be disorderly within the meaning of Standing Order unless the Member withdraws the allegations and gives a suitable apology, if the Speaker so requires.

23. When the Speaker rises, members are to be silent

Whenever the Speaker rises, any Member then speaking, or offering to speak, shall sit down and the House shall be silent, so that the Speaker may be heard without interruption. Also, when the House adjourns, Members shall stand in their places until the Speaker has left the chamber.

24. Members to be seated

Except when passing to and from his or her seat or when speaking, every Member when in the Chamber shall be seated, and shall not at any time stand in any of the passages and gangways.

25. Disorderly Conduct

- (i) Providing false information in Parliament
- (ii) Talking about something that is not in discussion
- (iii) Discussing a matter pending the decision of the Court
- (iv) Using the President's name mockingly
- (v) Discussing the actions of the president and other leaders involved in the provision of justice
- (vi) Using abusive or offensive language to other people

26. Punishments Given in the House

In case of breach of any of these standing orders, the Speaker may provide the following punishments to respective members: -

- (i) Oral reprimand for first-time offence.

- (ii) Suspend the member for the rest of the day for a serious offence committed, as decided by the speaker.

27. Declaration of interest

A Member who wishes to speak on any matter in which the Member has a personal interest shall first declare that interest before speaking.

28. Grave Disorder

In the event of a grave disorder arising in the House, the Speaker may adjourn the House forthwith or suspend any sitting for a period to be determined by him or her.

29. Joint Committee

- (i) The Speaker may constitute a joint committee of the House in order to consider a specific issue raised in the House of which no consensus has been reached under the provisions of these standing orders.
- (ii) The joint committee will prepare a report on the deliberation of the matter and present it to the House for resolution.

30. Speaker's Power to Interrupt Debate

Members are expected to speak to the topic under discussion and keep their remarks relevant. The Speaker has the authority to intervene if a member strays off-topic or engages in irrelevant debate.

PART FOUR: ORDER OF BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE

31. Arrangement of Parliamentary Business

- (i) The President may address Parliament on any day that Parliament meets and at any other time in accordance with the Constitution.
- (ii) At the commencement of the First Sitting of any Meeting of Parliament after the National Anthem is played and sung, and Prayer is read, or for subsequent sittings, Prayer alone is read and the Speaker takes their seat:
 - a) If the Speaker has received notice that the President intends to address Parliament that day, the Speaker shall announce to Parliament at what time the President shall do so;
 - b) When the time scheduled for the President to address Parliament arrives, the Speaker shall receive the President and invite them to address Parliament; and
 - c) After the President's speech, the Speaker may either suspend the sitting for a while to escort the President or adjourn Parliament until another specified day.
- (iii) After consulting with the Steering Committee, the Speaker shall allocate time for debating the President's speech.
- (iv) The business of Parliament shall be conducted in the following order:
 - a) Swearing in new Members of Parliament with the Oath of Allegiance;
 - b) President's statement;
 - c) Speaker's statement;
 - d) Presenting Petitions;
 - e) Documents for presentation to Parliament;
 - f) Questions to the Prime Minister;
 - g) Questions for which notice has been given;
 - h) Motions to adjourn business to debate urgent important matters;
 - i) Ministers' statements;
 - j) Personal explanations by a Member of Parliament;
 - k) Matters concerning the rights of Parliament, including amending the Standing Orders of Parliament;
 - l) Government business;
 - m) Motions or reports of Committees;
 - n) Private Members' motions; and

- o) Any other business which Parliament deems appropriate to be dealt with at that time.
- (v) Without prejudice to other provisions of this Rule and after consulting with the Steering Committee, in every Meeting of Parliament, the Speaker shall allocate specific time for Parliament to deal with Private Members' Motions and Bills of Committees and Private Members' Bills if they exist.
- (vi) The business of Parliament in each sitting shall be carried out by following the Order Paper for that day or by following another procedure that the Speaker shall order to be followed for the better conduct of parliamentary business.

32. Agenda of the Day (Order paper)

The agenda for each sitting day, which lists the business to be conducted, including bills to be debated, motions to be discussed, and other items of business, will be prepared and circulated to members in advance.

33. Procession to the chamber

Every sitting commences with a procession led by the Speaker, Secretary and the Sergeant -At- Arms carrying the *Mace* of the House.

34. Prayer

The prayer for the nation and Parliament shall be recited by the Speaker and shall include the following words:

"O Most Merciful God, Glorious Maker of the Heavens and the Earth, You have established governments and parliaments among nations so that Your justice may prevail. We humbly ask You to bless our country, sustain its independence, unity, justice, and peace. Grant our President wisdom, good health, and a long life, so that together with his advisors, they may uphold good governance. Increase our wisdom and understanding, and give us, Members of Parliament of the Republic of Ruerkehi, the capacity to deliberate sincerely on the matters brought before us today, so that we may make decisions that are beneficial to all people and promote the prosperity of our nation. Amen."

35. President's Statement

- (i) The President's Statement, if any, shall be read by the Speaker.

- (ii) Whenever possible, the President's statement shall be read in Parliament following the order of Parliamentary Business, but the Speaker may, at any time, suspend the business of Parliament for the purpose of enabling that statement to be read.

36. Speaker's Statement

- (i) The Speaker shall provide a statement to Parliament regarding all Bills passed by Parliament in its preceding Meeting, i.e., whether they have been assented to by the President or if the President has made another decision.
- (ii) During the sitting, the Speaker may give other statements as they deem appropriate.

37. Communication from the Speaker

The Speaker may wish to communicate to members any information deemed right to be known under special attention of members.

38. Papers to be laid on the table

Any motion or government business to be transacted in the house on a specific day is made official by first laying on the table such business at the commencement of the day by the relevant presenter, as shown in the order paper.

39. Presenting Petitions and Notice of Petition

- (i) Any Member of Parliament may present petitions to Parliament concerning any matter on behalf of the petitioners, and such a petition shall not be presented to Parliament unless first a notice of the petition has been given in writing and received by the Clerk not less than two working days before the Meeting where the petition is intended to be presented.
- (ii) Any petition may be presented to Parliament by a Member of Parliament, indicating the name of the Member of Parliament presenting it.
- (iii) The Member of Parliament presenting the petition shall give a brief explanation introducing the petitioners, their number, the signatures attached to the petition, the main claims contained therein, and the purpose of the petition.
- (iv) The Member of Parliament presenting the petition may move a motion that Parliament debates the petition, provided that such a motion shall not require notice and may be decided without any debate.

- (v) No Member of Parliament shall be allowed to present a petition concerning themselves or which they have signed or which violates the provisions relating to the procedure for enacting laws concerning financial matters.

40. Conditions Regarding Petitions

Any petition shall not be presented to Parliament unless the Speaker is satisfied that it has complied with the following conditions:

- a) It is written in English, and
- b) It is written in clear, respectful language and concludes with a general explanation regarding the purpose of the petition.

41. Copy of Petitions

A copy of every petition shall be submitted to the Clerk not less than two working days before the day of presentation to Parliament.

42. Documents to be Presented to Parliament

- (i) A document may be presented to Parliament during parliamentary sittings by:
 - a) A Prime Minister
 - b) A Minister; or
 - c) The Attorney General; or
 - d) Any Parliamentary Committee; or
 - e) Any Member of Parliament.
- (ii) Copies of all editions of the Gazette together with their Supplements published since the last sitting of the previous Parliamentary Meeting shall be presented to Parliament by the Minister and distributed to Members of Parliament.
- (iii) All documents shall be presented to Parliament without any motion for that purpose.
- (iv) After a document is presented to Parliament, a Minister, the Attorney General, or a Member of Parliament may move a motion that Parliament debates that document.
- (v) A motion moved in accordance with this Rule shall not require notice and shall be decided without amendments or any debate.
- (vi) If a motion to debate a document presented to Parliament is accepted, it shall be dealt with by following the Order of Parliamentary Business.
- (vii) Reports presented to Parliament by any Standing Committee, Select Committee, the Report of the Controller and Auditor General together with the Supplementary

Estimates of Expenditure shall be allocated time for debate in Parliament without a motion being moved.

- (viii) Reports that the law directs to be presented to Parliament shall be debated by the relevant Standing Committees of Parliament.
- (ix) The debate may focus on every matter contained in the document, unless the Speaker, considering the efficient conduct of parliamentary business, decides otherwise.

43. Questions to the Prime Minister

- (i) The Prime Minister may be asked questions by any Member of Parliament which shall comply with the provisions regarding parliamentary questions.
- (ii) Questions asked to the Prime Minister shall not have prior notice like other questions.
- (iii) The Prime Minister's Question Time shall be stipulated by the speaker and shall not exceed thirty minutes.
- (iv) The Prime Minister may use the Prime Minister's Question Time to provide information or clarification regarding any matter relating to Government business and of public interest for a period not exceeding ten minutes, followed by Members of Parliament's questions for twenty minutes concerning their statement or any other Government matters.
- (v) If on that day, for special reasons, the Prime Minister is not in Parliament, there shall be no questions for the Prime Minister.

44. Questions and Notice of Questions

- (i) A Minister may be asked questions concerning any public matters or any other matter that is administered by their Office, and likewise, any Member of Parliament may be asked questions concerning any matters they are involved in due to being appointed by Parliament to deal with such matters.
- (ii) Questions asked in accordance with this Rule shall be as brief as possible, and each question shall relate to only one specific matter.
- (iii) The Minister asked the question shall give their answer immediately during Question Time.
- (iv) If a question was not answered on that day because the time for questions expired, it shall be scheduled for a later answer in the ongoing Meeting. If the relevant day

is the day when the Parliamentary Meeting is closed, that question shall be answered in the next Meeting.

- (v) When Parliament is dissolved, all questions that have not been answered shall be answered in writing.
- (vi) If a question is asked that is directed to a Member of Parliament, then with the Speaker's permission, the Member of Parliament to whom the question is directed shall be given an opportunity to answer that question.
- (vii) Questions shall be answered orally in Parliament. But if the Member of Parliament with the question is not in Parliament to ask their question, and the Speaker has not given permission for that question to be asked by another Member of Parliament, then the Minister asked the question shall submit a written answer to the Clerk and the Clerk shall enter that answer into the Official Report.

45. Motions

Members can propose motions for debate and decision. These motions can cover a wide range of topics, from policy matters to procedural issues. Once given, motions can be amended.

46. Debates

Members can participate in debates on various topics, including bills, motions, and other matters of public interest. Debates are typically structured, with time allocated for different speakers and stages of the discussion.

47. Conditions Regarding Parliamentary Questions

Any parliamentary question shall not be allowed to be asked in Parliament if:

- a) It violates any Standing Order of Parliament;
- b) It criticizes the conduct or behaviour of any person whose conduct can only be debated by a specific motion;
- c) It requires information that is available in documents which the Member of Parliament can read themselves, such as copies of Laws or ordinary record writings;
- d) It is intended to obtain hypothetical legal opinions or to make suggestions on a purely speculative matter;

- e) It contains sarcastic remarks, falsehoods, unnecessary praise, or is based on purely speculative information;
- f) It has the purpose of providing information, or is asked in a way that suggests its answer or identifies a certain line of opinion;
- g) It concerns more than one matter and is excessively long; or
- h) It mentions any person by name or gives specific details about them unless it is necessary to make it understandable.

48. Withdrawing Questions

A Member of Parliament who asks a question may withdraw their question at any time before it is answered:

- a) By submitting a letter to the Clerk if the day scheduled for that question to be answered has not arrived; or
- b) If the relevant question is already placed on the Order Paper, they should stand in their place when their name is called during questions and state that they are withdrawing their question and briefly explain the reasons for doing so.

49. How to Ask Questions

- (i) When the relevant question is reached on the Order Paper, the Speaker shall call the Member of Parliament who has that question, or if they are absent, the Speaker shall call any other Member of Parliament to ask that question on behalf of the Member of Parliament with the question.
- (ii) The Member of Parliament who is called shall stand and ask the question, along with corrections (if any), by stating the following words without adding anything else: “I request my question (they shall state the number of their question on the Order Paper) now be answered.”

50. Time for Questions

- (i) The Time for Questions in Parliament shall be as stipulated in order
- (ii) The Speaker may set a maximum number of questions that shall be placed on the Order Paper, which they deem can be answered within the allocated time.

51. Supplementary Questions

- (i) Any Member of Parliament may ask supplementary questions for the purpose of obtaining further clarification on any matter mentioned in the answer given.
- (ii) The Member of Parliament who asks the main question shall be allowed to ask not more than two supplementary questions and any other Member of Parliament who is given the opportunity shall be allowed to ask only one supplementary question.
- (iii) For the purposes of this Rule, a question that shall be placed in sections (i) and (ii) shall be counted as two questions.
- (iv) Unless the Speaker directs otherwise, the Members of Parliament who shall ask supplementary questions shall not exceed three for one main question, and a Member of Parliament shall not be allowed to read their question.

52. Disallowed Supplementary Questions

- (i) Any supplementary question that introduces matters not arising from or related to the main question or that violates the provisions related to the procedures for asking questions shall be disallowed.
- (ii) If the Speaker disallows a supplementary question for violating the provisions of these Rules, that question shall not be answered nor shall it be shown in the Official Report.
- (iii) If the Speaker is satisfied that the main question or a supplementary question has not received satisfactory answers, they shall order it to be answered more clearly in another sitting of Parliament.

53. Questions to be Answered Fully

- (i) The Prime Minister/Minister asked a question shall be responsible for answering that question fully as asked, provided that, if the relevant answer is long or contains many statistics, the Minister shall provide the inquiring Member of Parliament with a copy of the answer early after the sitting begins, before the time for answering that question is reached.
- (ii) If the inquiring Member of Parliament requests the Minister to provide them with a copy of the answer to their question before the time for answering that question has been reached, then the Minister may give the inquiring Member of Parliament a copy of the answer as requested.

- (iii) The Prime Minister or any other Minister or the Attorney General may provide additional answers to the answers given by the Minister.

54. Committee of the Whole House/Supply

A committee made up of all members of the house that considers bills in detail/passes the budget.

55. Modes of decision-making in the house

- (i) Voting by voice... *Ayes and Noes* -The Speaker puts the question and then determines which direction has the majority of votes.
- (ii) Voting by ballot (original vote) ... *Yes, No & Abstain* - In case a Member requests that votes be counted, the Speaker (if they agree) shall direct that the voting process proceed.
- (iii) Voting by raising hand - Counting hands for those in favour/not in favour.
- (iv) Division - A formal method of voting in which members physically divide into groups to indicate their vote on a particular issue. The result of a division determines the outcome of the vote.

56. Adjournment of Parliamentary Business to Debate an Urgent Matter

- (i) After Question Time is over, any Member of Parliament may move a motion that the Business of Parliament as shown on the Order Paper be adjourned so that Parliament may debate an actual, urgent, and important matter of public interest.
- (ii) Such a motion shall be specific and may be moved at any time, even if a debate is ongoing.
- (iii) The motion shall be moved by a Member of Parliament standing in their place and requesting the Speaker's permission to move a motion to adjourn the Business of Parliament for the purpose of debating an actual, urgent, and important matter of public interest.
- (iv) If the Speaker is satisfied that the matter is urgent, actual, and of public interest, then they shall allow that motion to be moved for a period not exceeding five minutes and the debate on that motion shall continue for a period that the Speaker deems appropriate considering the circumstances of the matter being debated.

57. General Conditions Regarding an Urgent Matter

The following general conditions shall likewise apply regarding a motion to debate an urgent matter:

- (i) That motion shall not be allowed if it concerns a matter for which notice of motion has already been given and appears on the Order Paper;
- (ii) a matter which has been debated in a motion to adjourn the Business of Parliament moved in accordance with this Rule, shall not be brought again before Parliament in the same Meeting using this Rule.
- (iii) A matter brought by motion under this Rule shall be counted as "actual" only if:
 - a) It is a specific matter;
 - b) It is not expressed in overly general language or contains other mixed issues;
 - c) It was not given based on unreliable information, or if actual information on that matter is not available; or
 - d) It does not concern theoretical matters.
- (iv) A matter brought by motion under this Rule shall be counted as "urgent" if:
 - a) Its effects are obvious, and it can occur at any time;
 - b) It has occurred on that day or recently and has been brought without delay; or
 - c) There will be no opportunity to debate it soon through the normal parliamentary procedures for dealing with matters of Parliament.
- (v) Any matter shall be counted as being of "public interest" if its resolution depends on actions beyond those of the ordinary implementation of laws alone.

58. Adjournment of Parliament

The Speaker will formally conclude the sitting of the House by announcing its adjournment, typically following the completion of the day's business. This is effected through a motion to adjourn, which allows Members to bring proceedings to a close in an orderly and structured manner.

No further business shall be conducted after the House has been adjourned, and the sitting shall resume on the next appointed date and time as directed by the Speaker. Adjournment does not signify the end of a parliamentary session unless explicitly stated.