

RULINGS AND OBSERVATIONS
FROM THE CHAIR
(1952-2008)



RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
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PREFACE

Every deliberative body, more so a Parliament, needs rules to regulate its business. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business provide the framework for smooth and orderly functioning of Parliament. They define how a collective decision on matters before the august body is reached. The Presiding Officers of Rajya Sabha – the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen – play an important role in enforcing the rules of procedure while giving every section of the House an opportunity to participate effectively in the proceedings of the House. The landmark rulings and observations made by the Presiding Officers during the course of the proceedings of the House help clarify the rules, and provide valuable insights into the working of Rajya Sabha. These rulings and observations reflect their sound knowledge and understanding of the Constitution, Parliamentary rules, conventions and traditions, as also their acumen and ability to strike a fine balance among the different sections of the House. Thus, rulings and observations of the Chair play an important role in understanding the entire gamut of the rules of procedure and their scope, as also the subtle issues debated in the House. The Presiding Officers through their rulings and observations interpret the rules in a way that is consistent with parliamentary traditions and precedents that have been established over a period of time. With enormous precedent value, these rulings and observations serve as a significant guide during the crucial and anxious moments in the House.

This is the revised edition of the publication titled '*Rulings and Observations from the Chair (1952-2000)*' which was first brought out in July, 2001. After the publication of the first edition, there have been significant rulings and observations on crucial aspects, such as maintaining the discipline, decorum and dignity of the House, making effective use of different procedures, managing the time of the House, etc. which are essential for proper functioning of the House. The select rulings and observations have been culled from the debates of Rajya Sabha from time to time by the Library, Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS), Interpreters Service and the Reporters Service. The revised edition contains select rulings and observations covering a period from 1952 to 2008. It gives the crux of the rulings and observations, the brief background or circumstances that actually led to the ruling or observation made by the Presiding Officer, followed by the text of the ruling or observation so as to have a wholesome understanding of the context. The source of the rulings and observations has been indicated in each case to enable the reader to locate the relevant debate to get a clear idea of the process that led to a particular ruling or observation. The rulings and observations have been classified and those of similar nature have been grouped together.

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Where there are several rulings under a given heading, these have been classified further under specific sub-headings. Apart from these, an exhaustive subject index has been provided at the end of the publication to facilitate easy and quick reference.

I am deeply beholden to the Hon'ble Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, for his constant encouragement and for being a great source of inspiration in accomplishing this project.

I would like to mention here that in compiling and editing the rulings and observations, I was assisted by a team of dedicated officers and staff belonging to the LARRDIS. In this context, I would like to acknowledge, particularly, the commendable work done by Shri N.C. Joshi, Secretary; Shri N.K. Singh, Joint Secretary; Ms. Bharti Tiwari, Shri S.D. Nautiyal, Shri Raghav Prasad Dash, Directors; Ms. L. Lakshmi, Joint Director; Shri Ratan Kumar Sahoo, Deputy Director; Ms. Meena Kandwal, Assistant Director; and Ms. Vishwarupa Bhattacharya, Shri Piyush Soperna, Ms. Noyaline Vinitha F.C. and Ms. Prabita Khoyumthem, Research Assistants.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate and compliment the officers and staff of the Printing and Publications Service, who were involved at all stages of the printing of the publication. I also place on record my appreciation and thanks to the Manager and staff of the Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi for printing this publication.

I hope that Members of Parliament, academics, researchers and others, who are interested in the functioning of parliamentary institutions, especially the procedural matters, will find this publication useful.

New Delhi;
March, 2009

DR. V. K. AGNIHOTRI,
Secretary-General.

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