

CHAPTER—20

Special Mention

Genesis of the procedure

There was no specific provision in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha in regard to the mentioning of matters of urgent public importance in the House by members till 1 July 2000. During the first two decades of the Rajya Sabha, it was the practice that ordinarily a member wishing to bring to the notice of the House and the Government a matter of urgent public importance, could approach the Chairman in his Chamber before the sitting of the House commenced and seek his prior permission to mention that matter. The member concerned would then be called to refer to that matter after Question Hour. Sometimes, however, members used to raise matters abruptly even without such permission which could eventually lead to avoidable or unpleasant scenes. For instance, on 16 August 1963, when a member wanted to make a submission without seeking Chairman's prior permission, the Chairman observed, "I am afraid, things which are not on the Order Paper should not be brought in this way unless they are brought to my notice before hand." When the member persisted, the Chairman observed:

"I think the House would understand and appreciate my difficulty. If submissions are to be made without my knowledge as to what they refer to, I probably will have to disallow... I should be told in advance what matter is sought to be brought before the House. Otherwise, this agenda paper becomes meaningless. "Though he permitted the member to mention the matter but remarked, "I hope you will not make me do it a second time."¹

Again, on another occasion, when after members who had sought prior permission raised their points, one member got up to refer to another point. The Chairman told him, "You never informed me that you wanted to raise a question." When the member clarified that he wanted to raise a different point on the same matter mentioned earlier, he was allowed.²

Even then the practice of mentioning matters was informal. This practice was considered at the meetings of the leaders of parties and

groups in the Rajya Sabha held on 3 August 1970 and 21 August 1970. They arrived at the following decision:

Only the members to whom the Chairman has given permission can mention the matter in the House. No other member can speak on it or refer to it unless permitted by the Chairman. A member to whom permission has been refused by the Chairman should not be allowed to raise the matter in the House.³

It was, however, observed that in the absence of a set procedure, on occasions, the practice caused inconvenience to the Chairman or members especially when the Chairman was busy in his Chamber with urgent matters connected with the sitting of the House. The following procedure was, therefore, introduced under the direction of the Chairman from the 90th Session of the Rajya Sabha which commenced on 11 November 1974:

A member who desires to seek permission of the Chairman for mentioning a matter of urgent public importance in the House shall give notice thereof in writing in the form available for the purpose in the Notice Office not later than 10.15 a.m. of the day on which he proposes to mention the matter in the House. A member shall not, however, give more than two such notices for one sitting. It will not be necessary for the members to meet the Chairman personally for the purpose. Notices received upto 10.15 a.m. will be placed before the Chairman for his consideration. A member to whom permission is given by the Chairman for mentioning a particular matter in the House on that day will be informed of it in the House during Question Hour. The member so permitted may mention that matter after the disposal of "Questions" and "Calling Attention", if any. Only the member to whom permission has been given may mention the matter in the House. No other member shall speak on it unless specially permitted by the Chairman.

Members to whom permission has not been granted to mention matters given notices of by them will not be allowed to mention the matters in the House. It will, however, be open to them to give fresh notices of the subjects for any subsequent day for the consideration of the Chairman.⁴

The procedure detailed above was brought to the notice of members before the commencement of each session through a Bulletin. It was also included in the Rajya Sabha *Hand Book for Members*.

Thus, by convention and consensus a regular practice of permitting members to make Special Mentions on matters of public importance was evolved and had been firmly established without any specific rule

incorporated in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha in that behalf.

The Committee on Rules in 1978 considered a suggestion that a specific rule for Special Mention should be incorporated in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha but did not agree to the suggestion as the Committee was of the opinion that it was not necessary to accord a formal recognition to the "Special Mention" by incorporating it in the Rules of Procedure.⁵

The Committee after nearly a decade (1989) reconsidered the suggestion and agreed to recommend a provision about Special Mention in the Rajya Sabha rules. It also tentatively approved a draft rule for the purpose. The Committee, however, did not take a final decision in the matter but left it for discussion amongst leaders of various parties/groups in the House.⁶

Subsequently, the Committee did not agree to the suggestion for framing a specific rule for Special Mention as the Committee felt that the existing procedure was satisfactory. The Committee was of the opinion that the admission/non-admission, listing of and giving priority to Special Mention matters should be left to the discretion of the Chairman.⁷

The absence of rules governing admissibility of and the procedure for making Special Mentions was perceived as hampering the smooth conduct of the business of the House. Therefore, the matter was placed before the General Purposes Committee, which in its meeting held on 28 July 1999, endorsed the need for framing rules in this regard and referred the matter to the Committee on Rules. The Committee on Rules in its eighth report agreeing with the views of the General Purposes Committee, proposed new rule 180A to 180E for regulating the procedure for raising special mentions in the House. The Report of the Committee was adopted by the House on 15 May 2000, and the new rule came into force with effect from 1 July 2000. Accordingly, from the 190th Session, the matters of urgent public importance are also being raised as Special Mentions under rule 180A to 180E.

Procedure

Notices

At the commencement of each session, members are informed about the procedure to be followed in regard to Special Mentions. A member who desires to make a Special Mention has to give notice in writing in the prescribed form by 5.00 p.m. on the day preceding the day on which he desires to mention the matter. Notices on subjects that have not been

selected for a particular day are carried forward for consideration of the Chairman for the next day. Notices which are not selected during the week for which they have been given, lapse at the end of the week and no intimation thereof is given to the member who had given the notice. Those members who are desirous to revive their notice(s) for the following week also may do so by giving a fresh notice.⁸

In order that a notice may be admissible, it should be accompanied by a text of the Special Mention not exceeding 250 words; should not refer to a matter which is not primarily the concern of the Government of India; should not refer to a matter which has been discussed in the same session or which is substantially identical to the matter already raised by a member during the session under the rules governing Special Mentions; should not raise more than one issue and the issue should not pertain to trivial matters; should not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations, epithets or defamatory statements; should not relate to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India; should be restricted to a matter of recent occurrence; should not refer to proceedings of a parliamentary/consultative committee; should not refer to the conduct or character of persons except in their public capacity; and should not refer discourteously to a friendly foreign country.⁹

A member should not give more than two notices for one sitting.¹⁰ All the notices received upto the time mentioned above are arranged according to date and point of time¹¹ and placed before the Chairman for his consideration from day to day. The Chairman's decision regarding granting the permission is communicated to the member concerned in the House during Question Hour by returning the notice and the approved text with the remarks, "HC has permitted". A list of members together with the subjects on which they have been permitted to make Special Mentions is prepared every day and kept for the use of the Chair. The list is supplied to the Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Press.

The Rules Committee considered but did not agree to a suggestion that the list of Special Mentions permitted by the Chairman should be displayed on the Notice Board in the Outer Lobby of the Rajya Sabha.¹²

Chairman's discretion

The selection of a Special Mention to be made by a member in the House is entirely the prerogative of the Chairman. Under normal circumstances, only one Special Mention is allowed to be made by a member during a week unless the Chairman directs otherwise.¹³ The question of

giving of permission for a Special Mention or its admissibility should not be raised in the House but may be taken up with the Chairman in his Chamber.¹⁴

A member was permitted to make a Special Mention regarding the alleged suicide by an ICAR employee. When another member who had given a Calling Attention notice on a similar subject wanted to make a submission, the Deputy Chairman intervened and observed, "How can you get up in the House and question the Chairman's discretion?... If every member wants to get up in the House and make a submission on all the notices that he has given then it will become impossible to run the House."¹⁵

Ordinarily, not more than one Special Mention may be permitted on one subject by one member. In case notices are received from more than one member on the same subject at the same time and for the same day, the Chairman in his discretion decides which member may be permitted to make the Special Mention irrespective of the order in which the notice is submitted.¹⁶

At a meeting of the leaders of various parties/groups in Rajya Sabha with the Chairman on 19 June 1980, it was felt that in respect of notices received from more than one member on the same subject, at the same time and for the same day, a ballot be held to decide which member should be permitted to make a Special Mention on that subject.¹⁷ The suggestion, however, was not pursued.

In 1981, a suggestion that if a Special Mention on a subject was granted, all those who had given notices should be allowed to speak was considered by the Rules Committee but was not agreed to.¹⁸

However, there had been cases where in view of the importance or sensitiveness of the subject, a number of members were permitted to speak on a Special Mention. Some of the important subjects and the number of members who spoke on those subjects (given in brackets) are mentioned below:

Justice Vaidialingam Commission Report (8);¹⁹ lathi charge by police on blind processionists in Delhi (12);²⁰ Presidential reference to the Supreme Court on the issue of payment of bonus to LIC employees (10);²¹ plot to assassinate Prime Minister (Shri Rajiv Gandhi) during his USA visit (11);²² discontentment amongst journalists regarding Wage Boards's recommendations (11);²³ threat to freedom of Press (10);²⁴ cancellation of the lease of the Indian Express Building; Kothari Panel report on bank privatisation (3+4);²⁵ police action in preventing the workers of the Indian Express (6) ; Sri Lankan Minister's statement on retaining Israeli personnel (4);²⁶ election in Tripura (4);²⁷ Third Anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy (6);²⁸ developments in Sri Lanka (9);²⁹ declaration of State of Tripura as a disturbed area (5);³⁰ Kuo Oil deal (5);³¹

DTC strike (8);³² HDW sub-marine deal (4);³³ police raid on the Gwalior office of *Dainik Bhaskar* (4);³⁴ discovery of weapons from certain cargo (4);³⁵ tax reductions and concessions by the Governor of Tamil Nadu (7);³⁶ protest against the Trade Unions and Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill (8);³⁷ plot to kill the Prime Minister and the Home Minister (13);³⁸ tapping of telephones of certain politicians and others (9);³⁹ killing of *Harijans* in Jehanabad district of Bihar (3);⁴⁰ dharna by Ministers and MLAs of Andhra Pradesh at the Boat Club (4);⁴¹ strike of journalists against the Defamation Bill, 1988 (8);⁴² manhandling of a Rajya Sabha member by Tihar Jail officials (8);⁴³ ratification of the Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Bill, 1988 regarding lowering of voting age by States (3);⁴⁴ raids on offices of Indian Express in Bombay (5);⁴⁵ nexus between smugglers and politicians (3);⁴⁶ attacks on Government officials in Tripura (13);⁴⁷ hoisting of Pakistani flags in Kashmir on the Independence Day (11);⁴⁸ Supreme Court decision on Cauveri water dispute (3);⁴⁹ pledging of gold in the Bank of England (3);⁵⁰ killing of a scheduled caste police officer in a village in Maharashtra (4);⁵¹ denigrating Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in a programme in Doordarshan (1+others);⁵² violence in Karnataka against Tamilians there (1+others);⁵³ demolition of temples in Ayodhya (17);⁵⁴ atrocities on Dalits at Kumher (3);⁵⁵ blacklisting of ISRO by USA (11);⁵⁶ and sale of rocket technology by Russia (2).⁵⁷

This practice of more than one member speaking on a Special Mention has been put to an end since 1 July 2000 with the framing of rules governing Special Mentions. Only one member is permitted to speak and the others, if they so desire, can only associate themselves with the Special Mention made by another member.

Number of Special Mention matters per sitting

As regards the number of Special Mentions per sitting, it has been provided in rule 180D(2) that it is not to exceed seven. But the Chairman considering the state of business, importance of the subject and other relevant matters while permitting Special Mentions at a sitting of the House may permit more than the prescribed number. Even prior to the framing of rules, attempts were made to regulate the number of Special Mentions to be made in the House in a day. The Chairman had informed the House on 23 April 1981, that at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on 22 April 1981, it had unanimously been suggested that ordinarily not more than four Special Mentions might be permitted on a day, and in case notices were received from more than one member, on the same subject, at the same time and for the same day, the Chairman, should in his discretion decide which member should be permitted to make the Special Mention irrespective of the order in which the notice was submitted.

The Chairman said that he had accepted the suggestion and proposed to follow this procedure.⁵⁸ However, a member expressed his disagreement with the suggestion and wanted that each member should be permitted to speak for a minute or two and a ballot be held if there were more than one member wanting to raise a matter.⁵⁹ The Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 10 July 1992, *inter alia*, recommended that not more than ten Special Mentions be admitted for a day when there was no calling attention or short duration discussion. At its meeting held on 5 August 1993, the Committee expressed the view that in order to devote more time to Government business, the number of Special Mentions be restricted to ten per sitting.⁶⁰ However, since 174th Session this number has been restricted to seven.⁶¹ Over the years, however, more than ten Special Mentions have been permitted during a sitting. For instance, on 10 September 1991, twenty-three Special Mentions were permitted, while they were thirty on 13 May 1992. On 20 August 1992, twenty-three Special Mentions were made and on 31 March 1993 and 12 May 1994, they were twenty and twenty-five, respectively. On 21 March 2007, 7 May 2010, 27 August 2010 and 11 December 2012, thirty, thirty-six, thirty-four and thirty-two Special Mentions were laid on the Table respectively.

Time for making Special Mention

The selection of a Special Mention to be made by a member at a particular sitting of the House is entirely at the discretion of the Chairman and cannot be questioned.⁶² It is also not necessary that Special Mention may be allowed daily. At times, considering the business of the House, Special Mention matters may not be allowed on a particular day.

For instance, at a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on 25 July 1991, members suggested that the Chairman might not admit Special Mention matters till the completion of the essential business of the House.⁶³

In view of these considerations the item “Special Mention” is not included in the list of business.

Generally the Special Mention matters were taken up after the disposal of questions and laying of papers. Sometimes, Special Mention matters have been taken up after the lunch-recess⁶⁴ or immediately after Question Hour if they were not taken up the previous day, or before Calling Attention if there is consensus in the House.⁶⁵

The Rules Committee considered but did not agree to a suggestion, that a Special Mention should be given precedence over a Calling Attention.⁶⁶ At a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee some members had suggested

that a Special Mention should precede a Calling Attention. The Committee opined that since the matter pertained to rules, it might be referred to the Rules Committee for its consideration.⁶⁷

Due to the desire or consensus in the House or need to dispose other urgent business, many times Special Mention matters have not been taken up after Question Hour but have been taken up after the lunch-recess or at some other time or towards the end of the sitting of the House.⁶⁸

For instance, due to the Budget discussion, the Business Advisory Committee suggested that the Special Mention matters admitted for a day may be taken up at 6.00 p.m. from Tuesday, 24 March 1992 till Friday, 27 March 1992.⁶⁹ However, none was admitted during those days.

During 228th Session, on 11 March 2013, the Chairman gave direction to the effect that the Special Mentions admitted for a sitting of the Council should be taken up at 5.00 p.m. or before the House rises for day whichever is later. It was further stipulated in the direction that members would have the option either to read the approved text of Special Mentions or to lay the same on the Table of the House⁷⁰.

Recent Developments

The Rules Committee in its 13th Report presented to the Rajya Sabha on 25 November 2014 and adopted by the House on 26 November 2014 *inter alia* recommended amendments in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) regarding change in the timings of the Question Hour from 11.00 a.m.-12.00 noon to 12.00 noon-1.00 p.m. as the Question Hour, in the past few years, was frequently disrupted for various reasons. Consequently, the first item of business to be taken up at 11.00 a.m. is the laying of papers and other business of formal nature, followed by matters of recent and urgent public importance to be raised with the permission of the Chair (Zero Hour Submissions) subject to a maximum of 15 such matters, and if time permits, the Special Mentions (for raising matters of public importance) are taken up to 12.00 noon.⁷¹

Mode of making Special Mention

The member to whom permission has been given, rises in his seat when called and reads the text of the matter for which permission is given. He is not permitted to mention the subject other than the one for which he has been given the permission.

Member to confine himself to the admitted text

On 10 December 2004, Shri V. Hanumantha Rao while making a Special Mention regarding the critical condition of children with heart problem

needing operation in Andhra Pradesh deviated from the written admitted text.

The Deputy Chairman then observed:

“Mr. Hanumantha Rao, what you are reading is not in the text here... You have to read only the text that you have given to the hon'ble Chairman.”⁷²

A member may with the prior permission of the Chair but not otherwise associate himself with a Special Mention made by another member.⁷³ In such a case he should confine himself merely to associating and should not make long speech. A member to whom permission has been refused should not mention the matter in the House.⁷⁴ A member should not ordinarily take more than three minutes to mention the matter.⁷⁵

No discussion on a Special Mention

On 16 May 1985, when there were interruptions during a Special Mention on reference to consequences of ban on recruitment in the Central Government and the Public Undertakings, the Chairman said:

“No discussion is allowed on a special mention.”⁷⁶

In recent years, in order to save time, the Chair, has more often after taking sense of the House, allowed the members to lay the approved text of Special Mentions on the Table, instead of reading it⁷⁷.

It is at the discretion of the member to whom permission to make a Special Mention has been granted to withdraw it or not to make it.

A Special Mention regarding reported violation of prescribed ceiling on expenditure by the Governor of Andhra Pradesh was, due to controversy on the subject, withdrawn by the member.⁷⁸

Time limit for conclusion of Special Mentions

In July 1980, the Chairman announced, *inter alia*, that Special Mentions should, as far as possible, be completed within fifteen minutes.⁷⁹ The Committee on Rules recommended that Special Mentions should not take more than half-an-hour and be completed by 1.00 p.m.⁸⁰ However, over the years, in view of the number of Special Mentions per sitting, it has not been possible to conclude Special Mentions within this time limit. In fact, there have been a number of occasions when one Special Mention had taken considerable time. Some of the instances when one Special Mention had lasted for more than one hour in a sitting are mentioned below:

Bomb explosions and hoisting of Pakistani flag in Kashmir,⁸¹ communal incidents in Varanasi,⁸² demolition of temples in Ayodhya,⁸³ and black-listing of ISRO by USA.⁸⁴

However, with the incorporation of rule governing the procedure of Special Mentions, the time taken for this purpose has been considerably brought down. Since only one member is allowed to speak on a subject, there is no question of a Special Mention taking more than three minutes. All the Special Mentions permitted for a day are generally over before the House adjourns for lunch and sometimes even before that.

No Supplementaries on Special Mention

On 31 August 1978, Shri Nageshwar Prasad Shahi spoke on the Karakoram Highway under the Special Mention procedure. When Shri Rameshwar Singh wanted that some time should be allowed to put questions on the subject, the Chairman ruled:

“Supplementaries are not allowed on special mentions.”⁸⁵

Special Mentions on alternate days

During the 140th Session (November-December 1986), the Chairman had devised an informal arrangement whereby he fixed alternate days for Calling Attention and Special Mentions in a week. The Business Advisory Committee, at its meetings held on 10 July 1992 and 19 August 1993, recommended, *inter alia*, that Special Mentions might not be admitted on those days when a Calling Attention or Short Duration Discussion was listed on the agenda.⁸⁶ However, on a number of occasions there have been Special Mentions on a day when there was a Calling Attention or a Short Duration Discussion.⁸⁷

Entry in Bulletin Part-I

The names of members who are permitted to make Special Mention together with the subjects raised by them are shown in Bulletin Part-I under the heading “Special Mentions”. Earlier, Bulletin Part-I contained only an entry “Mentioning Matters of Urgent Public Importance” indicating the names of members but without indicating the subjects.⁸⁸ The practice of mentioning names of members and subjects in Bulletin Part-I started from the 104th Session.⁸⁹ The practice of showing these matters under the heading “Special Mentions” started from 1985.⁹⁰

Cabinet Minister to be present in the House during Special Mention

On 15 December 2004, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj made a Special Mention demanding the presence of a Minister in the House during Special Mention and in the absence of a Cabinet Minister she requested the Deputy Chairman and thereafter the Chairman to adjourn the House. Intervening in the debate Shri Suresh Pachouri, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of

Parliamentary Affairs said that nowhere it is mentioned in the Rule Book that in the absence of a Cabinet Minister the House has to be adjourned. There is a mention about a Minister to be present in the House and no specific mention about State or Cabinet Minister.

Responding to it, the Chairman said:

“... It would be appropriate to have the proper representation of Government in the House and in order to have proper representation of the Government there should be at least one-two Cabinet Ministers, if some more other Ministers are there, it is better. However, if no Cabinet Minister is present in the House then the demand of the members is genuine.”⁹¹

Follow-up action on Special Mention raised

When Special Mentions are made, as a general practice, Ministers, though present in the House, do not react immediately to the matters so mentioned. If the concerned Minister is present and wants to reply, he is permitted to do so but it is not obligatory on him to reply.⁹² However, on important issues and sensing the desire of members, Ministers sometimes do react.⁹³

Since August 1981, as informally suggested in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on 19 August 1981,⁹⁴ after a Special Mention is made, relevant extracts from the proceedings of the House are forwarded to the concerned Ministry/Department of the Government of India the following day with a request that the same may be placed before the concerned Minister for a reply thereon direct to the member who has made the Special Mention under intimation to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. A copy of the communication is also forwarded to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs which is the nodal Ministry for ensuring follow-up action by the Ministries on the matters raised by way of Special Mention.⁹⁵ That Ministry has issued various instructions and guidelines to the Ministries/Departments for the follow-up action to be taken by them with regard to Special Mention matters including the time-limit for sending replies thereto. The guidelines, *inter alia*, stipulate:

- (1) On receipt of extracts of proceedings from the Secretariat, the Ministries should submit the same to their Ministers for information.
- (2) Ministries should examine the Special Mention matters and send replies to members who raised them in the House, within a period of one month from the date the matters have been raised.

- (3) In case it is found not possible to stick to this time-limit in respect of any matter for reasons like having to collect information from several sources, etc. an interim reply should be sent from the Minister to the member concerned stating the reasons for the likely delay and the approximate time that may be taken for the final disposal of the matter.
- (4) All communications should be sent to members at their Delhi addresses when Parliament is in session. During the inter-session period such communications should be sent to both local as well as permanent addresses of the members.
- (5) Communications to members should normally issue under the signature of the Minister. However, in exceptional cases, like when the Minister is on tour or indisposed, communications may be sent to members over the signature of an officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary.⁹⁶

Notwithstanding the above, the matter of non-receipt of replies to the Special Mentions within the stipulated time has been raised in the House from time to time.

On 7 May 1985, immediately after Question Hour, the Chairman made the following observations:

It has been represented to me that the Ministers are not sending replies to the various Special Mentions which the members made in this House. I would like the Leader of the House to take note of it and see that replies are sent and sent expeditiously.⁹⁷

The Leader of the House (Shri V. P. Singh) responded saying that he would extend maximum cooperation. Thereafter, a member referred to three Special Mentions made by him in the last session. Another member referred to para 7.15 at p. 46 of the Annual Report of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for 1984-85 and quoted two instances of the Special Mentions made by him to which replies were received after more than a month and said that whatever was mentioned in the Annual Report was not being implemented. The Leader of the House again assured his maximum cooperation "to get answers as early as possible." [The Annual Report referred to above stipulated a week's time for Ministries to send replies to members.]

Again on 5 September 1991, a member complained that no replies to Special Mentions were coming to members for years together.⁹⁸ On 9 December 1991, the Deputy Chairman made the following observations:

Members make Special Mentions. They refer to some issues. We have no procedure of letting the Minister react immediately, but

at least in one week or two weeks the answers should come to them. Members raise certain issues which are very serious. I would request the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to make it a point to tell the concerned Ministers and write to the concerned Ministers about it.⁹⁹

On 18 March 1993, a member raised, as question of privilege, a matter that he received a reply on 10 March 1993, to a Special Mention made by him in the House on 15 May 1990, *i.e.*, after three years.¹⁰⁰

In this context, the Committee on Rules considered in 1984 a suggestion of some members for constituting a Committee of the House to monitor replies to the Special Mentions made by members in the House. Although the Committee did not agree to the suggestion, it proposed that as in the case of Government Assurances, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should lay, during each session, a statement on the Table of the House, indicating the action taken by the Government on the Special Mentions made by members in the House. The proposal, however, did not find favour with the Government.¹⁰¹ In 1992, again the Committee considered the suggestion. The Committee felt that an informal Committee of members might be set up for the purpose. However, the matter still rests there.¹⁰²

In 2009, due to the concerns expressed by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, the Secretariat itself took up the issue of long pendency of replies to Special Mentions made/laid in the Rajya Sabha. A statement of pendency of replies was obtained from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries were called and persuaded to expedite replies to Special Mentions pending against them. Owing to these efforts, the pendency of replies could be brought down appreciably. However, issues of non-receipt of replies and delay in sending replies to Special Mentions by the Ministries are still under active consideration of the Presiding Officers, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Government. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, which is responsible for monitoring the follow up action on replies to Special Mentions, holds periodic meetings with the Ministries during inter-session in this regard.¹⁰³

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. R.S. Deb., 16.8.1963, c. 425-26.
2. *Ibid.*, 26.11.1963, c. 1028-29.
3. F. No. 7/4/70-L.
4. Bn. (II), 30.10.1974 and 8.11.1974.
5. 2 Rpt., COR mts., 19.6.1978, pp. 17-18.
6. COR mts., 23.8.1989.
7. *Ibid.*, 18.8.1992.
8. R. 180C.

9. R. 180B.
10. Bn. (II) issued from time to time; *See for instance*, Bn. (II), 14.11.1995.
11. BAC mts., 1.8.1986.
12. 2 Rpt., COR mts., 24.1.1979, p. 25.
13. R. 180D(1).
14. R.S. Deb., 18.7.1978, c. 217; 25.7.1978, c. 174.
15. *Ibid.*, 18.3.1975, c. 156.
16. BAC mts., 22.4.1981; R.S. Deb., 23.4.1981, c. 171; Bn. (II), 23.4.1981.
17. R.S. Deb., 3.7.1980, c. 5; *and* Bn. (II), 3.7.1980.
18. 3 Rpt., COR mts., 5.8.1981, p. 37.
19. Bn. (I), 4.2.1980.
20. *Ibid.*, 17.3.1980.
21. *Ibid.*, 22.4.1981.
22. *Ibid.*, 14.5.1985.
23. *Ibid.*, 21.4.1986.
24. *Ibid.*, 17.3.1987.
25. *Ibid.*, 16.11.1987.
26. *Ibid.*, 19.11.1987.
27. *Ibid.*, 30.11.1987.
28. *Ibid.*, 3.12.1987.
29. *Ibid.*, 8.12.1987.
30. *Ibid.*, 23.2.1988.
31. *Ibid.*, 14.3.1988.
32. *Ibid.*, 22.3.1988.
33. *Ibid.*, 30.3.1988.
34. *Ibid.*, 26.4.1988.
35. *Ibid.*, 29.4.1988.
36. *Ibid.*, 9.5.1988.
37. *Ibid.*, 27.7.1988.
38. *Ibid.*, 2.8.1988.
39. *Ibid.*, 9.8.1988.
40. *Ibid.*, 16.8.1988.
41. *Ibid.*, 31.8.1988.
42. *Ibid.*, 6.9.1988.
43. *Ibid.*, 24.11.1988.
44. *Ibid.*, 19.12.1988.
45. *Ibid.*, 8.3.1989.
46. *Ibid.*, 2.5.1989.
47. *Ibid.*, 9.5.1989.
48. *Ibid.*, 16.8.1989.
49. *Ibid.*, 23.5.1990.
50. *Ibid.*, 18.7.1991.
51. *Ibid.*, 29.8.1991.
52. *Ibid.*, 6.9.1991.
53. *Ibid.*, 16.12.1991.
54. *Ibid.*, 23.3.1992.
55. *Ibid.*, 8.7.1992.
56. *Ibid.*, 12.5.1992.
57. *Ibid.*, 5.5.1992.
58. BAC mts., 22.4.1981; R.S. Deb., 23.4.1981, c. 171; *and* Bn. (II), 23.4.1981.
59. R.S. Deb., 23.4.1981, c. 192-95.
60. BAC mts., 10.7.1992 *and* 5.8.1993.
61. Bn. (II), 13.7.1995.
62. R.S. Deb., 18.3.1975, c. 156.
63. BAC mts., 25.7.1991.
64. R.S. Deb., 15.3.1982, c. 190; 26.3.1982, c. 3; 31.3.1982, c. 91; *and* 27.4.1984, c. 185.

65. R.S. Deb., 26.7.1985, c. 166; 16.9.1991, c. 15, etc.
66. 3 Rpt., COR mts., 5.8.1981, p. 37.
67. BAC mts., 1.8.1986.
68. R.S. Deb., 9.1.1991, 10.1.1991, 11.1.1991, 26.2.1991, 5.3.1991, 15.7.1991, 25.7.1991, 13.9.1991, 29.11.1991, 2.12.1991, 5.12.1991, 6.12.1991, 11.12.1991, 13.12.1991, 10.3.1992, 16.3.1992, 18.3.1992, 31.3.1992, 29.4.1992, 8.5.1992, 13.5.1992, 14.5.1992, 10.8.1992, 18.8.1992, 19.8.1992, 20.8.1992, 19.3.1993, 31.3.1993, 10.5.1993, 26.7.1993, 29.7.1993, 27.8.1993, 22.12.1993, 16.3.1994, 26.4.1994, 12.5.1994, 15.6.1994, 26.7.1994, 22.8.1994 and 25.8.1994.
69. BAC mts., 23.3.1992.
70. Bn. (II), 11.3.2013
71. 13th Report of the Committee on Rules presented on 25.11.2014 and adopted by the House on 26.11.2014.
72. *Rulings and Observations from the Chair* (1952 to 2008); Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, p. 418
73. R.S. Deb., 20.3.1986, c. 35.
74. *Ibid.*, 25.3.1980, c. 257; and 24.11.1986, c. 238.
75. *Ibid.*, 3.7.1980, c. 5; Bn. (II), 3.7.1980; R.S. Deb., 20.3.1985, c. 141.
76. *Rulings and Observations from the Chair* (1952 to 2008); Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, p. 421
77. R.S. Deb., 30.8.2005, 7.9.2012, 29.4.2013, etc.
78. *Ibid.*, 23.2.1988, c. 207-08.
79. Bn. (II), 3.7.1980.
80. 7 Rpt., COR mts., 21.12.1994 and 14.2.1995.
81. Bn. (I), 16.8.1989.
82. *Ibid.*, 20.11.1991.
83. *Ibid.*, 23.3.1992.
84. *Ibid.*, 12.5.1992.
85. *Rulings and Observations from the Chair* (1952 to 2008); Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, p. 491.
86. BAC mts., 10.7.1992 and 19.8.1993.
87. Bn. (I), 25.11.1986, 8.5.1987, 16.3.1988, 28.4.1988, 7.12.1988, 26.4.1989, 10.5.1990, 10.1.1991, 15.7.1992, 23.2.1993, 29.7.1993, 15.3.1994, 14.6.1994, 23.8.1994 and 26.8.1994.
88. *Ibid.*, 18.7.1977.
89. *Ibid.*, 21.2.1978.
90. *Ibid.*, 21.11.1985.
91. *Rulings and Observations from the Chair* (1952 to 2008); Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi, p. 416.
92. R.S. Deb., 13.8.1985, c. 145 and 20.12.1985, c. 198.
93. Bn. (I), 22.4.1981, 12.3.1987, 24.11.1988, 19.12.1988, 3.4.1989, 2.5.1989, 20.8.1990, 12.7.1991, 16.7.1991, 18.7.1991, 10.9.1991, 2.12.1991, 6.12.1991, 16.12.1991, 27.2.1992, 4.3.1992, 9.3.1992, 23.3.1992, 13.5.1992, 26.11.1992, 2.3.1993, 11.3.1993, 17.8.1993, 23.8.1993 and 24.8.1993.
94. F. No. 7/5/80-L.
95. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Office Memorandum No. F. 14(3)/89-Leg.II, dated 15.7.1993.
96. *Ibid.*
97. R.S. Deb., 7.5.1985, c. 171-73.
98. *Ibid.*, 5.9.1991, c. 284.
99. *Ibid.*, 9.12.1991, c. 201.
100. *Ibid.*, 18.3.1993 and F. No. 35/12/93-L.
101. 4 Rpt., COR mts., 29.5.1984, p. 21.
102. RC mts., 18.8.1992.
103. F. No. RS 4/3/2009-L.