



# Starred Questions In Parliamentary Proceedings

## Why in News

The ongoing Winter Session of 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha has taken all the **20 starred questions** for the **first time since 1972**.

- The **previous record** was created during the **5<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (1972)** when **14 starred questions were answered**.
  - In the **5<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (1972)**, the number of starred questions was **fixed at 20 per Question Hour**. Similarly, for the **Rajya Sabha**, the number is **fixed at 15**.
- Members of Parliament have a right to ask questions which is one of the devices available to them to seek information on matters of public importance.
- The Question Hour is one such mechanism in which the members ask questions on varied aspects of administration and governmental activity.

## Question Hour

- The **first hour of every parliamentary sitting** is termed as Question hour.
- It is mentioned in the **Rules of Procedure** of the House.
- During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.
- The questions are of **three types**, namely,
  - **Starred questions:**
    - These are distinguished by an **asterisk**.
    - It requires an **oral answer** and hence **supplementary questions** can **follow**.
    - The list of these questions is printed in **green** colour.
  - **Unstarred questions:**
    - It requires a **written answer** and hence, supplementary questions **cannot** follow.
    - The list of these questions is printed in **white** colour.
  - **Short notice questions:**
    - The matters of **public importance and of urgent character** are considered under this type of questions.
    - It is asked by giving a **notice of less than ten days**.
    - It is answered **orally**.
    - The list of these questions is printed in **light pink** colour.
- In addition to the ministers, the **questions** can also be asked to the **private members**.
  - **Question to private members:**
    - These questions are mentioned under **Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha**.
    - A question may be addressed to a private member if the subject matter of the question relates to some bill, resolution for which that member is responsible.

- The list of these questions is printed in **yellow** colour.

**Source:IE**

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