

CONFERENCES OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED SINCE 1985

Lucknow, 26-27 October, 1985

1. The desirability of framing uniform rules by the Presiding Officers of State Legislatures under paragraph 8 of the Tenth Schedule on the lines of the rules framed by the Speaker, Lok Sabha
2. Consideration and adoption of Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers on "Committee System"
3. How long a member duly elected to the Assembly and notified as such by the Election Commission under section 73 of the Representation of People Act, 1951, can continue without making and subscribing an Oath or Affirmation under article 188 of the Constitution?
4. Whether a Minister should be appointed as Chairman of the Committee of Privileges?
1. Should the Speaker have the power not only to name a member who disregards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof, but also to suspend him from the service of the House for a specified period?

DELHI, 21-22 October, 1986

1. Can there be notice of a resolution for removal of *pro tem* Presiding Officer of a Legislative Body?
2. Effect of Act on expulsion of a member from the party on whose ticket he was elected
3. Desirability of developing an integrated computerised National Information Grid to cater to Legislators' references
4. Financial accountability of government aided autonomous organisations to Parliament
2. Desirability of uniform salary, allowances and other amenities to Presiding Officers of Legislatures of States and Union Territories and M.L.As
- 3.

SRINAGAR, 16-17 September, 1987

1. Under what circumstances a motion rescinding a decision of the House on question, as contemplated in the May's Parliamentary Practice, can be entertained?
2. Whether Committee of the House, while on tour for on-the-spot study of a subject should enjoy the privileges contemplated under Article 194 of the Constitution and if not, how any obstruction offered while discharging its responsibilities can be dealt with?
3. Whether non compliance of whip issued by a party to its members to file nomination papers for specified financial committee attract the provisions of the Constitution (fifty second amendment) Act, 1985 and can a Member disqualified for this Act
4. Consideration and adoption of Report of Committee of Presiding Officers on "Need for a uniform set of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in all Legislatures in the country"
5. Proposal for the formation of an All India Parliamentary Service
6. Uniformity of Control of MLAs Hostels

DISPUR, 20-21 JANUARY, 1989

1. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers on "All India Presiding Officers Forum"
2. Whether Parliamentary Questions should be allowed regarding the working of Public Undertakings, in order to make their functioning more effective?
3. What option is there for a Presiding Officer when a motion for suspension of a Member is not moved in spite of the fact that he has been named by the Chair for such defiance?
4. Necessity to codify the privileges granted under article 105 and 194 of the Constitution
5. If a Member of a legislature resigns his seat by writing under his hand addressed to the Presiding Officer and his thereupon is declared vacant by an order:
 - (a) can such an Order be questioned in a Court of Law, and
 - (b) if a Court entertains an application questioning such order and issues notice to the Presiding Officer, what course of action should the Presiding Officer take?
6. Uniform procedure for recognition and providing facilities to Leader of Opposition Group/Party
7. Independence of Legislature Secretariats as contemplated in Article 187 of the Constitution of India

BHOPAL, 20-21 SEPTEMBER, 1989

1. The necessity of codifying the immunities and privileges of the Members of the Parliament and State Legislatures with reference to the notice issued by the Supreme Court to the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly
2. The propriety of deciding the question of majority outside the House
3. Duties and functions of legislators : Need to evolve a code of conduct and laying down guidelines
4. Autonomy of Legislature Secretariat in respect of creating new posts, recruitment of staff, administration and financial matters
5. Situation arising out of shrinking days of the sessions of Legislatures in India.
6. Constitutional position and status of the Deputy Speaker / Deputy Chairman of the Legislature
7. Consideration and adoption of the Report of Committee of Presiding Officers on "All India Presiding Officers Forum" (Part-I)

New Delhi, 11 February, 1992 (Emergency Conference)

1. Anti Defection Law
2. Relations between the Legislature and the Judiciary

GANDHINAGAR, 29-30 May, 1992

1. Disorder and disturbances in the House at the time of Address by the President / Governors and measures to curb them
2. Relationship between Legislature and Judiciary
3. Committee System
4. Need to establish an institution to impart training in Parliamentary Practice and Procedure to the staff of Legislature Secretariat and the newly elected Members of Legislatures
5. Invoking of Anti-defection Law
6. Accountability and stability of Government
7. Independence of Legislature Secretariats

**All India Conference of Presiding Officers, Leaders of Parties and Whips on Discipline and Decorum in Parliament and State Legislatures,
New Delhi, 23-24 September, 1992**

MADRAS, 25-26 June, 1993

1. Need to lay down constitutional limit for minimum number of sittings of Legislatures and minimum number of sessions
2. The Need for a unanimous recommendation to the Government for making in built provisions in the law for exempting the Presiding Officers from appearance in the Courts
3. Shakhder Committee Report on inadequate response of the State Governments to the Audit Reports constituted by the C & AG

BHUBANESWAR, 1-2 February, 1994

1. Steps to make Parliamentary System more effective?
2. Decorum in the House
3. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers on "Measures to promote harmonious relations between the Legislature and Judiciary"

NEW DELHI, 10-11 October, 1996

1. Need to create an atmosphere and functioning of present day legislatures conducive to the growth of democracy and to check the deterioration in the performance and behaviour of our legislators inside the House
2. Role and introduction of the Committee System in the Legislatures for Parliamentary Surveillance over Executive
3. Relationship between the Legislature and the Press
4. Telecasting of the proceedings of the House

SHIMLA, 21-22 October, 1997

1. 50 years of Parliamentary Democracy in India
2. Discipline and Decorum in the House

NEW DELHI, 22-24 September, 1998

1. Need to review the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution
2. Need for Procedural Reforms and better Management of the Time of the House

Hyderabad, 30-31 May, 2000

1. Issues arising out of the so-called Dual Membership of Parliament – and / or State Legislatures
2. Relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary
3. Office of the Speaker in Multi-Party System
4. Proposal regarding future pattern of Presiding Officers' Conference

Chandigarh, 28-29 June, 2001

1. Need to evolve a Code of Conduct for Legislators and steps to contain frequent adjournment of the Legislatures on account of interruptions / disturbances
2. Harnessing information and communication technologies in the Legislatures and need for strengthening of the Libraries *inter alia* with computer connectivity
3. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies on "Procedural Uniformity and Better Management of the Time of the House"

All India Conference of Presiding Officers, Chief Ministers, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders and Whips of Parties on "Discipline and Decorum in Parliament and State Legislatures"

New Delhi, 25 November, 2001

Bangalore, 20-21 June, 2002

1. Role of Legislatures in strengthening accountability and need for independent Secretariat for Legislatures
2. Electoral Reforms

Mumbai, 4-5 February, 2003

1. Changing dimensions of Zero Hour – How to make it more productive?
2. Parliamentary Privileges and the publication of proceedings of the Legislatures by the Media
3. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies to review the Anti – Defection Law

Kolkata, 9-10 October, 2004

1. Legislative Privileges and Freedom of Press
2. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers on "Regulation of Zero Hour"
1. Consideration of suggestions received on the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers to review the Anti-Defection Law
4. Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers on "Telecasting of Proceedings of the Legislatures"

New Delhi, 20 March, 2005 (Emergency Conference)

Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary

New Delhi, 30 July, 2005

1. Enhancing the accountability of the Executive to the Legislature by strengthening the Committee System and ensuring implementation of Government assurances
2. Computerization of State / UT Legislatures under National E-Governance Plan and establishing e-connectivity between Parliament and State Legislatures.

Raipur, November, 2005

1. Poverty Alleviation – How the Parliament and Civil Society can work in Tandem?
2. The Legislature and the Media – Roles and Responsibilities

New Delhi, 4 February, 2006 (Emergency Conference)

Issues arising out of and related to proceedings initiated in the Courts of Law challenging the Expulsion of Members of Lok Sabha on 23 December, 2006

Thiruvananthapuram, 25-26 May, 2007

1. Indiscipline including disregard of Presiding Officers, disturbances, disruptions and other serious acts of misconduct in Legislatures – Future strategies to improve the situation
2. Relationship between the Legislature and the Judiciary

Haryana Vidhan Sabha, Chandigarh, 21-22 September, 2008

1. Need to evolve procedural devices and frame rules to control unruly behaviour of the Members, their entry in the well of the House, obstruction in the business of the House and ensure improved time management
2. Need to strengthen public faith in Democratic Institutions
3. Terrorism – a threat to National Unity – Role of Legislatures

SUPPLIMENTARY AGENDA:

4. Presentation, consideration and adoption of the Committee of Presiding Officers to go into different aspects of the Future Pattern including Funding of the Presiding Officers' Conference

Bhopal, 3-4 February, 2010

1. Self-assessment by Legislatures for Enhancing its Relevance
2. Creation of Smaller States – A National Perspective
3. The Role of Speaker in the Administration of Legislature

Srinagar, 20-21 June, 2010

1. Significance of the Committee System in Parliament and the need to strengthen it
2. Growing tendency to disrupt the Question Hour and the need to check it.

Jaipur, 22-23 September, 2011

1. Determination of maximum period of Assents to Bills passed by the Legislature
2. The Role of the Legislature in Scrutinizing and Making Laws for Good Governance
3. Era of Coalition Government – Its Compulsions and Challenges

Supplementary Agenda:

4. Presentation, consideration and adoption of Report of the Committee of Presiding Officers on Ensuring Accountability of the Executive to the Legislature.

Lucknow, 31 January-1 February, 2015

1. Role of Parliaments in Development
2. Paperless Parliaments
3. Presentation, consideration and adoption of Report of the Follow up Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee of All India Presiding Officers' Conference

Gandhinagar, 22-23 January, 2016

1. Changing Public Perception of Legislatures: The Role of Legislators in strengthening public faith in democratic institutions and the relevance of the Speaker's Research Initiative in supporting the Legislators.
2. Measures to be taken for ensuring attendance of the members during the sittings of the House, and for improving the quality of the debate and the need to ensure minimum 60 days sittings of the House in a year in State Legislatures.
