




drishti

Starred Questions In Parliamentary Proceedings

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Why in News

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

- The **previous record** was created during the **5th Lok Sabha (1972) when 14 starred questions were answered**.

In the **5th 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