

CHAPTER-I

ACCOUNTABILITY

2. Admissibility of Questions relating to Public Enterprises in Parliament.

The Government have been considering certain aspects regarding the admissibility of Questions relating to Public Enterprises in Parliament, in the context of the need for promoting the autonomy of the Public Undertakings. It is considered that nothing should be done by way of discussions etc. in Parliament which would encroach on the autonomy or fetter the initiative of the Public Enterprises.

2. At present the principles laid down in the Lok Sabha Secretariat OM dated the 17th March, 1958, continues to hold good on the disallowance of Questions. In this O.M., it is laid down that the following types of Questions should be disallowed:

- i) Questions relating to day-to-day administration of Public Enterprises;
- ii) Questions which tend to throw work on the Ministries and the Public Enterprises incommensurate with the result to be obtained therefrom;
- iii) Questions which seek to obtain information which the Hon'ble Members may obtain directly by addressing the managements of Public Enterprises.

These principles will continue to apply. It has also been agreed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats that identical or same Questions asked in the previous or current sessions should not be admitted and questions seeking statistical information which is normally available in the published documents or annual reports, etc. are also normally to be disallowed.

3. Government have now decided that if the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India feel that a particular Question is not admissible in view of any of these considerations, the Minister in the concerned Ministry/ Department should take up immediately with the Speaker, Lok Sabha/ Chairman, Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, within 48 hours of the receipt of advance information of the question, to have it disallowed. If, in spite of all these efforts, a Question which should have been disallowed is admitted, the Minister while replying to the Question could state that the Question falls within the sphere of the day-to-day administration of Public Enterprises or explain the position regarding the work involved in collection of information vis-à-vis the results to be obtained therefrom or point out that an identical or substantially similar question had already been answered.

4. These decisions of the Government are communicated to all Ministries/Departments for their information and guidance.

(BPE No. 2(35)/68-BPE(GM) dated 4th June, 1969)
