

## **COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (Rule 267 & 268)**

### **Introduction :**

In Parliamentary democracy, which our country has chosen, the Executive is responsible to and is subject to the control of the Legislature. Parliamentary Committees are a means of exercising effective control by the Legislature over the Executive, as it is unwieldy to the Legislature as a whole, to exercise such control. The Legislature exercises such control through its Committees. The Committee on Government Assurances is one of *the* Legislature Committees in that direction.

The Committee is entirely an Indian origin in the field of Parliamentary Committees. There is no parallel to this Committee in the Westminster, although our Parliamentary system is broadly modelled and inspired by it. The Committee on Government Assurances is one of the important Committees and it is a very powerful weapon in the armoury of Parliamentary control over the Executive. The field of operation of the Committee is unlimited-extending to the financial, social, legislative and every other conceivable aspect that comes upon the Floor of the House, provided there is an assurance.

### **Constitution of the Committee : (Rule 268)**

The Committee shall consist of not more than seven members whom shall be nominated by the Speaker.

### **Minister cannot be a member :**

A Minister shall not be nominated as member of the committee. If a member, after his nomination to the Committee, is appointed as Minister, he shall cease to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

### **Chairman :**

The Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances is nominated by the Speaker.

### **The term of Office :**

The members of the Committee hold office for a period specified by the Speaker or if no period is specified, till a new Committee is constituted.

### **Functions: (Rule 267)**

The Committee scrutinizes the assurances, promises, undertakings, etc., given by Ministers, from time to time on the Floor of the House. It examines them and report on the extent to which such assurances, promises, undertakings, etc. have been implemented and whether such implementation has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose.

### Presentation of the Report :

The Committee presents reports, periodically to the House.

After the report is presented to the House, a copy of the report is sent to the Department concerned for taking necessary action on the recommendations contained in the report. The action taken reports on the recommendations are also examined by the Committee and it presents a report to the House.

### Implementation Report on Assurances:

Implementation Reports on the Assurances, promises made by the Ministers on the Floor of the House shall be furnished to the Legislature Secretariat within sixty days from the date of communication of Assurances for placing them on the Table of the House.



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