

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

(Rule 251 to 253)

Constitution of the Committee: (Rule 252)

The committee consists of twelve members of whom nine members are elected from amongst the members of the Legislative Assembly and three members are elected from amongst the members of the Legislative Council. They are elected according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and in accordance with the regulations framed in this behalf by the Speaker.

Process of Election :

A motion is moved in the Legislative Assembly calling upon members of the House to elect from amongst themselves nine members of the Committee on Estimates. After the motion is adopted, a programme fixing the dates for filing nominations, withdrawal of candidatures and the election if necessary, is notified or announced. On the receipt of nominations, a list of members who filed nominations is prepared and displayed on the Notice Board. If the number of members nominated is equal to the number of members to be elected, the members nominated are declared elected after the expiry of time for withdrawal of

candidatures. If the number of members nominated, after withdrawals, is more than the number of members to be elected, election is held on the stipulated date as is mentioned in the programme. The results are announced after counting.

Appointment of Chairman :

The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Legislative Assembly elected to the Committee.

A Minister is not eligible to be elected as a member of the Committee, and if the member, after his election to the Committee, is appointed a Minister, he ceases to be a member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

Term of Office :

The term of office of members is one year. There should be a fresh election before the end of the financial year for Constitution of the Committee, for ensuing financial year. If under any circumstances, such election is not held, the existing members of the Committee will continue to hold office until new members are elected.

Functions of the Committee : (Rule 251)

The Committee of Estimates examines such of the estimates as may

deem fit to the Committee or area specifically referred to it by the House.

The Committee reports what economics, improvement in reorganisation efficiency or administrative reform consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected. It suggests alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency, and economy in administration. It also examines whether the money is well laid out within the limits of the policy implied in the estimates. The committee may suggest the form in which the estimates are to be presented to the Assembly.

The Committee calls for information from the Department concerned and other agencies. The information on the following terms are obtained from the Departments concerned.

- (i) the organisation of the Department and its attached and subordinate offices. This information is furnished in the form of a diagram supported by the short explanatory notes;
- (ii) the functions of the Department and its attached and subordinate offices;
- (iii) an explanatory note furnishing broad details on which the estimates are based;
- (iv) volume of work in the Department and its attached and subordinate offices covering the period of

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estimates and giving for the purpose of comparison corresponding figures for the preceding three years:

- (v) schemes or projects which the Departments have undertaken with a note explaining the name and details of schemes, the estimate of expenditure, period within which likely to be completed, yield if any progress made to date;
- (vi) actual expenditure incurred under each sub-head of estimates during the preceding three years.
- (vii) reasons for variations, if any, between the actuals of the preceding years and the current estimates;
- (viii) reports if any, issued by the Department on its working; and any other Information that the Committee might call for, or the Department may think it necessary or proper to give.

It makes on the spot studies and take evidence from officers concerned and others in regard to the subject under examination

Report :

The Committee concludes its examination on the subject and prepares a report with its conclusions and recommendations. After the report is approved by the Committee, a copy of

the report is sent to the Department concerned for verification of factual details only. After that the report is presented to the Legislature. A copy of the report is sent to the Departments concerned for taking necessary action on the recommendations made therein. The replies containing action taken by the Government on the recommendations are considered by the Committee and presents a report to the Legislature.

Action taken reports :

The Department concerned has, after the receipt of the report of the Committee, to furnish implementation replies thereon. The replies on the action taken are also examined by the Committee and makes a report to the Legislature.

Declaration of Interest by the Member in Committees:

Where a member of a Committee has personal, pecuniary or direct interest in a matter which is to be considered by the Committee, he/she shall state his/her interest therein to the Speaker through the Chairman of the Committee, by means of an affidavit.

