

STANDING ORDER 44

The present standing order 44 reads as follows:

(1) Questions may be placed on the order paper seeking information from ministers of the Crown relating to public affairs; and from other members, relating to any bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the House, in which such members may be concerned; but in putting any such question or in replying to the same no argument or opinion is to be offered, nor any facts stated, except so far as may be necessary to explain the same; and in answering any such question the matter to which the same refers shall not be debated.

Questions
put to
ministers.

(2) (a) Any member who requires an oral answer to his question may distinguish it by an asterisk.

Oral
answer.

(b) If a member does not distinguish his question by an asterisk, the minister to whom the question is addressed hands the answer to the Clerk of the House who causes it to be printed in the official reports of the debates.

Printed
answer.

(3) If, in the opinion of Mr. Speaker, a question on the order paper put to a Minister of the Crown is of such a nature as to require a lengthy reply, he may, upon the request of the Government, direct the same to stand as a notice of motion, and to be transferred to its proper place as such upon the order paper, the Clerk of the House being authorized to amend the same as to matters of form.

Question
to stand
as notice.

(4) If a question is of such a nature that, in the opinion of the minister who is to furnish the reply, such reply should be in the form of a return, and the minister states that he has no objection to laying such return upon the Table of the House, his statement shall, unless otherwise ordered by the House, be deemed an order of the House to that effect and the same shall be entered in the votes and proceedings as such.

Question
made
order for
return.

The change being proposed in the procedure dealing with questions may be summarized as follows:

All questions shall be printed on the daily order paper until answered or otherwise disposed of;

Questions shall be listed under two headings, namely:

1. "Starred Questions"; that is, questions distinguished by asterisks, to indicate that oral answers thereto are required.
2. "Questions"; that is, questions to which written replies may be given.