

Oral questions

**20.** (1) When the Speaker calls the question period, a senator may, without notice, address an oral question to

- (a) the Leader of the Government in the Senate, if it is a question relating to public affairs,
- (b) a senator who is a Minister of the Crown, if it is a question relating to his ministerial responsibility, or
- (c) the chairman of a committee, if it is a question relating to the activities of that committee.

Supplementary questions

(2) Supplementary questions may be asked.

Oral question taken as notice

(3) If an oral question cannot be answered immediately, the senator to whom it is addressed may take the question as notice.

Explanatory remarks

(4) A debate is out of order on an oral question, but brief explanatory remarks may be made by the senator who asks the question and by the senator who answers it.

Written questions

**20A.** (1) A question described in paragraph 20(1)(a) or (b)

- (a) that seeks statistical or other information not readily available, or
- (b) to which an answer in writing is desired,

shall be sent in writing to the Clerk of the Senate to be placed on the Order Paper until answered.

Reply to written question

(2) The reply to a question on the Order Paper shall be printed in the *Debates of the Senate* of the day on which it is given.

No preamble

**20B.** A preamble to a question, whether it is asked orally or in writing, is out of order.

Orders of the Day

**21.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Senate, Orders of the Day take precedence according to priority as follows, precedence always being given to Orders of the Day relating to