



State of Israel

The Knesset

Rules of Procedure



Jerusalem
1995



State of Israel

The Knesset

Rules of Procedure



Jerusalem
1995

*Published under the authority
of the Secretary General of the Knesset*

ISBN 965-222-604-1

CONCERNING THE KNESSET RULES

The First Knesset, convened in February 1949, inherited the eighteen procedural rules of the Provisional State Council, an appointed body of fewer than forty members that sat little more than one hour weekly during its entire existence of nine months, from the Declaration of Independence in May 1948 until the opening of the first Knesset. These rules were too sketchy for the needs of the Knesset. Very early, therefore, the Knesset's House Committee, through a subcommittee, applied itself to the preparation of a body of rules that would cover most aspects of the Knesset's developing procedure. As in much of its practice, the Knesset drew inspiration in its written rules from the procedure of two pre-State institutions - the Zionist Congresses, and the Elected Assemblies of the Palestine Jewish Community; hence, to cite but a few examples, the Knesset instinctively, as it were, adopted a collegial presidium and a system of time allotment on a Group basis in important debate.

The Knesset Rules of Procedure are the result of a long-drawn process of regulation that is still ongoing. It is convenient to distinguish between an earlier period when entire chapters of the rule book were first written, and a later period, overlapping though with the earlier, when new rules were adopted, and existing ones amended, as need arose. The earliest chapter, on the competence of committees, was adopted in 1949; the last, concerning Members motions (known as Motions for the Agenda and serving to vent grievances and raise questions of public importance), only in 1971. Changes after most of these chapters had become part of the rule book, and concerning specific rules, were made in order to adapt existing rules to emerging needs and meet situations which had not been contemplated. For instance, in the sixth Knesset (1965-1969), when the unrestricted right to propose Members bills and motions was utilized by the member of a one-man Group in a manner considered unreasonable by the majority, the Rules were amended to provide for sessional quotas of bills and motions for each Group, taking into account its numerical strength. A more recent example is provided by the Ninth Knesset (1977-1981), in which some

exceptionally boisterous Members prompted the Knesset to alter the Rules so as to increase the discretionary power of the Chair in disciplining unruly Members, and to adopt a series of Rules giving a committee chairman order-keeping powers parallel to those of the presiding officer in the plenum.

For years the rule-making prerogative rested solely with the House Committee. A Rule or amendment adopted by the Committee would need only to be laid on the table of the house. Only in July 1967 were the Knesset Rules of Procedure adopted by a resolution of the house. Since then, any change in the Rules proposed by the Committee requires approval by a voice vote of the House. Knesset Members have fourteen days to submit objections to such proposed change. Objections not accepted by the Committee may be defended again in the house before it votes finally on the Rule or amendment.

Article 19 of the Basic Law: The Knesset, adopted in 1958, reads as follows:

19. The Knesset shall itself prescribe its procedure; in so far as such procedure has not been prescribed by Law, the Knesset shall prescribe it by rules; so long as the procedure has not been prescribed as aforesaid, the Knesset shall follow its accepted usage and practice.

Thus, the Knesset Rules, though they form a comprehensive procedural code, do not stand alone, but are complemented by usage and practice. Moreover, the Rules themselves provide that procedural questions to which they contain no answer shall be settled by the House Committee whose resolutions in such matters shall be binding precedents. In the course of a Knesset sitting the interpretation of any Rule or precedent by the Chair determines the question. However, a Member may appeal from a ruling by the Chair to an Interpretations Committee of eight Members chosen by the House

Committee and chaired by the Speaker. The decision of the Interpretations Committee, without affecting the ruling in question, will be a binding precedent for the future.

Unusual as it may seem, legislative procedure in Israel is the subject of these Rules only and not of primary legislation. Even the power of the individual Member to propose a bill is derived from the Rules. Hence the Rules can widen or narrow this power. This indeed happened in 1985, when the Knesset amended Rule 134 to provide that "the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall not approve (for tabling) a bill which, in their opinion is racist in its substance or negates the existence of the State of Israel as the State of the Jewish people". When this provision was challenged in the Supreme Court sitting as a High Court of Justice, it was held that the Rules, in view of the method and form by which they are adopted, bear the character of a legislative enactment; thus, only in circumstances of an extreme nature, where a substantial flaw in their provisions is discovered that goes to the root of the fundamental principles of the State's constitutional regime and democratic conceptions, could judicial control be exercised in regard to a provision of the Rules duly adopted.

The present translation is revised to include amendments made up to 1994.

อภิธานนากา

จาก

(นายพิทกร สุ่มหิรัญ)

ผู้ช่วยเลขาธิการสภาผู้แทนราษฎร

CONTENTS

PART A: ORGANISATION OF THE KNESSET

CHAPTER ONE: THE SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY SPEAKERS

		<i>PAGE</i>
1.	Election of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers	1
2.	Who shall not be elected	1
3.	Term of office	1
4.	The oldest Member	1
5.	Duties of the Speaker	1
6.	Duties of the Deputy Speakers	1
7.	Committee membership	2
8.	Participation in committees	2

CHAPTER TWO: COMMITTEES

9.	Composition of permanent committees	2
10.	Chairman of a permanent committee	2
11.	Acting chairman of a committee	3
12.	Term of office	3
13.	The permanent committees and their subject matters	3
14.	Duties and powers of a permanent committee	5
15.	Sub-committees	6
16.	Joint committees	6
17.	Committees on specific matters	7

CHAPTER THREE: PARTY GROUPS

	<i>PAGE</i>
18. Name and address of party group	7
18A. Changes in the party group composition of the Knesset	7
18B. Notice to the Speaker and to the Knesset	7
18C. Notice, publication and the Speaker's instructions	8
19. Party group amenities	8

CHAPTER FOUR: MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET

20. Address and communications	8
21. Journeys abroad	8
22. Attendance at sittings	8
23. Dispatch of letter of resignation	8

CHAPTER FIVE: SECRETARIAT, BUDGET AND STAFF

24. The secretariat of the Knesset	9
25. The budget of the Knesset	9
26. Staff	9

*PART B: BUSINESS OF THE KNESSET**CHAPTER ONE: SITTINGS*

27. Sitting days	10
28. Publicity of debates and closing of doors	10

	<i>PAGE</i>
29. The protocol	10
30. Permission to publish	11

CHAPTER TWO: THE AGENDA

31. Fixing of the weekly agenda	12
32. Arrangement of the agenda	12
33. Rights of precedence on the agenda	13
34. Government motions and Members' motions	13
34A. Prime Minister's statement	14
35. Government statements	14
36. No-confidence motion	14
37. Agenda at special session	14

CHAPTER THREE: QUESTIONS

38. Submission of a question	15
39. Inadmissible questions	15
40. Answer which is not to be given before Knesset	16
41. Transmittal of question	16
42. Refusal to give answer	16
43. Period for answer to question	16
44. Marking and tabling of question	17
45. Procedure for answering question	17

CHAPTER FOUR: RULES OF DEBATE - GENERAL PROVISIONS***Section A - Order of Speeches***

	PAGE
46. Form of debate	18
47. Subjects for party-group debate	18
48. Procedure for party-group debate	19
49. Procedure for personal debate	20
50. Member of Government's right to speak	20
51. Resigning Minister's right to speak	21
52. Opening and summing-up of debate	21
53. Motion for order	22
54. Personal statement	22
55. Party-group statement in debate on bill	23
56. Party-group statement in debate other than on bill	23
57. Party-group statements instead of debate	24
58. Speakers at special sitting	24
58A. In memory of the deceased	24

Section B - Resolutions

59. Resolutions other than on bills	25
60. Order of voting	25
61. Call to vote	25
62. Methods of voting	26
63. Determining results of vote	26
64. Proceedings on resolution of Knesset	27

Section C - Further Provisions

65. Right to speak	27
66. Restriction of references	28
67. Remark to speaker	28

	<i>PAGE</i>
68. Compliance with directions	28
69. Call to order	28
70. Denial of right to speak, removal and exclusion from sitting	29
71. Suspension of sitting	29
71A. Inappropriate display or action	29
72. Removal and exclusion from sitting	30
72A. Declaration of allegiance	30
73. Appeal	30
74. Removal by force	30

CHAPTER FIVE: MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR THE AGENDA

75. Motion for the agenda	31
76. Submission of a motion for the agenda	31
77. Words of explanation	31
78. Approval by Speaker	31
79. Committal of motion	32
80. Agenda of sitting reserved for motions	32
81. Quota of motions and bills for party-group	33
82. Urgent motion	33
83. Confirmation of urgency of motion	33
84. Time of debate of urgent motion	34
85. Determination of House Committee on urgency of motion	34
86. Motion for the agenda by a majority of Members	34
87. Government notice	35
88. Order of proceeding on motion for the agenda	35
89. Number of requests to make alternative proposal	36
90. Reply to a number of motions	36
91. Motion for deliberation in committee	37

	<i>PAGE</i>
92. Voting on motions for the agenda	37
93. Postponement of vote on motion for the agenda	37
94. Debate on matter which Knesset has decided to debate	38
95. Determination which committee to deliberate subject	38
96. Withdrawal of motion for the agenda	38
97. Ministers' right to speak	39

CHAPTER SIX: BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEES

98. Committee meetings	39
99. Committee meetings during recess	39
100. Quorum at committee meetings	40
101. Meetings not public	40
102. The protocol	40
102A. Members' inspection of protocols	40
102B. Inspection of protocols	41
102C. Application of Archives Regulations	42
103. The agenda	42
103A. Call to order in committee	43
103B. Denial of right to speak, removal and exclusion from meeting	43
103C. Substitution for Member removed from meeting	43
103D. Voting	43
103E. Appeal	43
103F. Consideration by House Committee	43
103G. Restriction on participation in committee meetings	44
104. Participation of Knesset Members not members of the committee	44
105. Invitation of observers	45

	<i>PAGE</i>
106. Invitation of experts and others	45
106A. Invitation of employees and office holders	45
106B. Mode of invitation	46
106C. Minister's appearance	47
106D. Exclusivity of appearance	47
106E. Non-appearance	47
107. Representation of Minister	47
108. Communications with ministries	47
109. Recommendations	48
110. Reconsideration	48
111. Conclusions of committee	48
112. Committee reports	49

CHAPTER SEVEN: PROCEEDINGS ON GOVERNMENT BILLS

113. Tabling	50
114. Three readings	50
115. First reading	50
116. Vote after first reading	51
117. Different proposals for reference to committee	51
118. Deliberation in committee	51
119. Amendments to bill	52
120. Departure from scope of subject matter	52
121. Division of a bill	52
122. Combination and division of bills	52
123. Tabling for second reading	53
124. Renewed deliberation in committee upon its request	53
125. Time of second reading	53
126. Proceedings on second reading	54

	<i>PAGE</i>
127. Reconsideration in committee upon request of Knesset	55
128. Vote on second reading	55
129. Third reading	55
130. Postponement of third reading	55
131. Special proceedings	55
132. Competence of Government to withdraw bill	56
133. Right to bring withdrawn bill a second time	56

CHAPTER EIGHT: PROCEEDINGS ON MEMBERS' BILLS

134. Submission of Members' bill	56
135. Preliminary debate	57
136. Order of debates	57
137. Procedure for preliminary debate	58
137A. Postponement of vote	58
138. Reference to committee	58
138A. Legislation requiring budget	58
138B. Transmission for publication	59
138C. Examination	59
139. First reading	59
140. Bills on one subject	60
141. Subsequent deliberation	60
142. Right of Member to withdraw bill	60
143. Identical bill	61
144. Corresponding bills	62
145. Member's bill and Government bill	62
146. Publication	62

PART C: INTERPRETATION OF RULES - PRECEDENTS

	<i>PAGE</i>
147. Establishing precedents	63
148. Deviation from rules or precedents	63
149. Interpretation of rules and precedents	63

PART D: AMENDMENT OF RULES

150. Motion to amend rules	64
151. Right to submit objections	64
152. Proceedings in absence of objections	64
153. Proceedings if objections submitted	64
154. Coming into effect	65
155. Publication	65

<i>QUESTIONS</i>	66
-------------------------	----

PART A

ORGANISATION OF THE KNESSET

CHAPTER ONE

THE SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY SPEAKERS

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers, whose number shall be fixed by the Knesset, shall be elected by the Knesset in open election. | Election of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers |
| 2. | A member of the Government, or Deputy Minister, shall not be Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Knesset. | Who shall not be elected |
| 3. | (a) The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall be elected for the whole term of office of the Knesset. | Term of office |
| | (b) If the office of the Speaker or of one of the Deputy Speakers becomes vacant, the Knesset shall elect his substitute. | |
| 4. | Until the election of the Speaker the oldest Member who is not a Minister or Deputy Minister shall perform the duty of the Speaker. | The oldest Member |
| 5. | The Speaker shall conduct the affairs of the Knesset and represent it externally; he shall see to the preservation of its dignity, the decorum of its sittings and the observance of its rules of procedure; and he shall preside over the sittings of the Knesset and conduct them, put questions to a vote, and determine the results of each vote and the results of all elections that take place in the Knesset. | Duties of the Speaker |
| 6. | (a) If the Speaker is absent from a sitting of the Knesset, one of the Deputy Speakers shall act in his place. | Duties of the Deputy Speakers |
| | (b) The Speaker may, from time to time, hand over the conduct of a sitting of the Knesset or any other of his duties to one of the Deputy Speakers. | |

(c) A Deputy Speaker who is conducting a sitting of the Knesset or performing any other duty of the Speaker, has every obligation and authority which is conferred on the Speaker in that situation.

Committee membership 7. The Speaker shall not be a member of any committee of the Knesset but the Interpretations Committee.

Participation in committees 8. The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers may participate in the deliberations of the House Committee; the Speaker may participate in the deliberations of any committee of the Knesset.

CHAPTER TWO

COMMITTEES

Composition of permanent committees 9. (a) The Knesset shall decide on the composition of the permanent committees, and their members shall be elected by the Knesset according to the principle of party-group representation.¹

(b) If the place of a committee member becomes vacant, there shall come in his place another member elected by the Knesset according to the principle of party-group representation.²

Chairman of a permanent committee 10. (a) A permanent committee shall elect its chairman from among its members according to the recommendation of the House Committee.

In these notes, HCR = House Committee Resolution

1 A party group may use its quota to nominate a Member of another party group (HCR - 30.1.90).

2 The usage of the Knesset since its inception, whereby each party group determines changes of its members in the Knesset committees, by notice to the chairman of the House Committee who brings it before the Knesset - shall be continued (HCR - 15.1.80). Changes in membership of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee shall be as prescribed in Rule 9 (b) of the Rules of Procedure and for a period of not less than three months (HCR - 14.7.80).

- (b) A Deputy Minister shall not be chairman of a committee.
11. (a) The chairman of a permanent committee may, from time to time, appoint one of the members of the committee to act in his place for a period that shall not exceed two weeks. Acting chairman of a committee
- (b) The acting chairman of a committee shall have all the powers of the chairman.
12. The term of office of a permanent committee shall be the same as that of the Knesset. Term of office
13. (a) The permanent committees and their subject matters are as follows:³ The permanent committees and their subject matters
- (1) The House Committee: the Knesset Rules of Procedure, and matters deriving from them; Members' immunities, and requests for withdrawal of immunity; house arrangements; recommendations concerning the composition and chairmen of the permanent committees and of committees on specific matters; delimitation and co-ordination of the business of the committees; transmittal, to the Speaker or to the appropriate committees, of requests from the public to the Knesset; consideration of complaints about Members of the Knesset; payments to Members of the Knesset; consideration of requests and matters that do not concern any other committee or that have not been included among the duties of another committee.

3 In addition to the committees enumerated in this Rule, the following committees also exist:
 (i) the Ethics Committee: see Section 13D of the Knesset Members' Immunity, Rights and Duties Law, 5711 - 1951, and Chapter Seven of the Knesset Members' Rules of Ethics;
 (ii) the Interpretations Committee - see Rule 149 of the Rules of Procedure.

- (2) The Finance Committee: the State budget; taxes of any kind; customs and excise; loans; currency and foreign currency matters; banking and banknotes; state revenues and expenditures.
- (3) The Economic Affairs Committee: trade and industry; supply and rationing; agriculture and fishing; all branches of transportation; co-operative societies; economic planning and co-ordination; development; state concessions and custodianship of property; property of absentee Arabs, of Jews from enemy countries, and of deceased Jews; public works; housing.
- (4) Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee: foreign policy, armed forces and the security of the State.
- (5) Internal Affairs and Environment Committee: local government; town planning; entry to Israel, and population registry; citizenship; press and information; religious and cultural communities; religious organization of Jews and non-Jews; police and prisons.
- (6) Constitution, Law and Justice Committee: the constitution of the State; Basic Laws; laws and administration of justice.
- (7) Immigration and Absorption Committee: immigration; absorption; emigrants; Jewish and Zionist education in the diaspora; all related matter within the terms of reference of the Board for Co-ordination between the Government of Israel and the World Zionist Organization and between the Government

of Israel and the Jewish Agency for Eretz-Israel.

- (8) Education and Culture Committee: education; culture; science; art; broadcasting; cinema; physical culture.
- (9) Labour & Social Welfare Committee: labour; social security, including system of assurance of income; the National Insurance Institute; health; relief; rehabilitation; disabled and their rehabilitation, including disabled of the defence forces, families of war sufferers, and other casualties; juvenile delinquents; pensions and benefits; system of payments to soldiers and their families.
- (10) State Audit Committee: link with State Comptroller and Commissioner on Complaints from the Public; powers under the State Comptroller Law and other statutes; the status and powers of internal auditors.

- (b) The Knesset may from time to time appoint additional permanent committees.
- (c) The House Committee is competent to decide in differences of opinion concerning committee jurisdictions.

- 14. (a) The duties of a permanent committee within its jurisdiction are: consideration of bills, regulations requiring the approval of the committee or consultation with it and regulations that have been made, requests of persons that have been submitted to the Knesset, or that have been submitted to the Government and forwarded to the Knesset for consideration and drawing conclusions, and any other matter referred to the committee by the Knesset.

Duties and powers of a permanent committee

(b) The committee may call on the Minister concerned for explanations and information on a matter referred to it, or which falls within its jurisdiction, and the Minister, in person or through his representative, is obliged to give the requested explanations or information.

Sub-
committees

15. (a) A permanent committee may from time to time elect a sub-committee, and, by a resolution passed with a majority of two-thirds of the committee, it may transfer to such sub-committee all or some of its powers, except those assigned to it by law.

(b) Members of the committee who are not members of a sub-committee shall have the right of reservation even if all of the committee's powers have been transferred to the sub-committee; this provision shall not apply to sub-committees whose meetings are privileged as provided by Rule 102A (e).

(c) The chairman of a sub-committee shall be elected by the permanent committee when the sub-committee is being set-up.

Joint
committees

16. (a) Should the Knesset or the House Committee decide to refer a bill, or the subject of a Members' motion for the agenda, to two committees for joint consideration, a special committee shall be formed by the House Committee, with an equal number of members from each of the two committees.

(b) The chairman of the joint committee shall be chosen by the House Committee from the members of the committee to which, in the opinion of the House Committee, the matter is more pertinent.

(c) For all purposes of debate, taking of decisions and reporting, a joint committee shall be deemed a committee on a specific matter.

(d) A committee that wishes to set up a joint committee with another committee, or to hold a joint sitting with it, shall seek and obtain the concurrence of that committee for the purpose, unless it has already been so decided in the House Committee.

17. The Knesset shall appoint from time to time, upon a recommendation of the House Committee, a committee on a specific matter, whose status shall be that of a permanent committee in all respects except term of office, unless the Knesset has made other provisions.
- Committees
on specific
matters

CHAPTER THREE

PARTY GROUPS

18. (a) Every party group may take the name which it used in the elections to the Knesset; in the event of a split in a party group after the elections, the party group retaining most of the members elected from the candidates' list is entitled to take the name which it used in the elections; any other name requires the approval of the House Committee.⁴
- Name and
address of
party group
- (b) Every party group shall inform the Speaker of its address in writing, and invitations and communications to a party group shall be sent to this address.
- 18A. Changes in the following require the approval of the House Committee:
- Changes in
the party
group
composition
of the
Knesset
- (1) the party group composition of the Knesset;
 - (2) the name of a party group;
 - (3) the number of members of a party group.
- 18B. The House Committee shall notify the Speaker of every change as aforesaid which it has approved and of every split to which the provisions of section 13A
- Notice to
the
Speaker
and to the
Knesset

⁴ Without determining that an individual Member who has left his party group shall constitute a party group, it was recognized that in Knesset discussions he has all the rights that the Rules and practice attribute to a party group (HCR - 22.12.64).

(c) of the Financing of Parties Law, 5733 - 1973, apply; the committee shall notify every change to the Knesset.

Notice,
publication
and the
Speaker's
instructions

18C. (a) The Speaker shall notify the Chairman of the Central Elections Committee of every change in the details prescribed by section 18A and shall publish a notice concerning them in the Official Gazette.

(b) The Speaker shall instruct the Knesset Accountant with regard to the changes necessitated in the financing of the current expenses of a party group as a result of changes in the party group composition of the Knesset.

Party
group
amenities

19. (a) Every party group is entitled to receive a room in the Knesset Building for its work, taking into account the availability of space in the Building.

(b) The permanent employees of a party group - whose number shall be fixed in consideration of its size, but shall not exceed five - are entitled to enter the Knesset Building and its offices freely.

CHAPTER FOUR

MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET

Address
and
communica-
tions

20. Every member must furnish the Speaker with an address to which are to be sent invitations, communications and documents; a dispatch to this address shall be considered sufficient notice.

Journeys
abroad

21. A Member going abroad must so inform the Speaker, and must indicate the time of his stay abroad and his whereabouts.

Attendance
at sittings

22. A Member shall, to the best of his ability, regularly attend the sittings of the Knesset plenum and of the committees of which he is a member.

Dispatch
of letter of
resignation

23. If a Member is unable to submit his letter of resignation personally to the Speaker as provided in Section 40 of Basic Law: The Knesset, he shall send it

- (1) in the country - through someone authorized for this purpose in writing by the Speaker;
- (2) if abroad - through a diplomatic or consular representative of Israel;

the person authorized as stated in paragraph (1), or the representative as stated in paragraph (2), shall verify the Member's signature on the resignation and mark on it the date of the signature.

CHAPTER FIVE

SECRETARIAT, BUDGET AND STAFF

24. The Knesset shall have a secretariat which shall work under the supervision of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers. The secretariat of the Knesset
25. The Speaker shall bring the proposed annual budget of the Knesset to the House Committee for approval, and is responsible for its execution. The budget of the Knesset
26. The Speaker may engage personnel and assign them various duties, and he is responsible for their functioning. Staff

PART B**BUSINESS OF THE KNESSET****CHAPTER ONE***SITTINGS*

- Sitting days 27. (a) The Knesset shall hold sittings on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- (b) The Speaker, with the approval of the House Committee, may fix the number of sittings to be held each week and their times, and he may, with approval as aforesaid, cancel a sitting, fix an extra sitting and its time - whether on one of the days stated in paragraph (a) or on another weekday - and fix the day on which a session of the Knesset shall end, taking into account section 31 of Basic Law: The Knesset.
- (c) The Speaker may alter the times of a sitting, or determine that a sitting be interrupted.
- Publicity of debates and closing of doors 28. (a) The sittings of the Knesset shall be public unless the Knesset has decided to sit in camera, as provided by section 27 of Basic Law: The Knesset, for the consideration of a certain matter, or the Government has so requested and the request is supported by thirty Members of the Knesset.
- (b) If a proposal is submitted to the Knesset plenum to consider a certain matter in camera and is supported by ten Members of the Knesset at least, one Member shall speak for the proposal and one shall speak against it; this proceeding too shall be conducted in camera.
- The protocol 29. (a) At sittings of the Knesset, public or in camera, there shall be kept a stenographic protocol of the entire course of the proceedings, of the motions, and of the results of votes.⁵
- (a1) The protocol shall be edited by the editor of the Knesset Record (Divrei Haknesset); every

Member shall receive a transcript of his own words - including interjections - for correction, and he may correct misprints, mistakes and omissions; a Member wishing to so correct his words shall return the protocol to the editorial office of the Knesset Record within seven days after receiving it.

- (b) Every Member is entitled to receive a copy of the protocol, except for a protocol of a proceeding held in camera.
 - (c) The protocol shall be published in the Knesset Record (Divrei Haknesset), except for the protocol of a sitting in camera, about which it shall be said in the Knesset Record: "Knesset sitting no... was held in camera pursuant to a resolution of the Knesset".
 - (d) If the chairman of a sitting sees fit to prohibit the publication of anything pursuant to section 28 of Basic Law: The Knesset, he shall announce from the Knesset rostrum, before the close of that sitting, that the publication of the matter is prohibited and that it shall not be included in the protocol; if the sitting has been concluded, he shall issue an instruction in writing that the matter be expunged from the protocol, and shall inform the Knesset Member concerned accordingly.
30. The House Committee, and it alone, may decide on the publication of the protocol of a sitting in camera, or of part of it, and on the publication of resolutions passed in such a sitting, or of a part of them. Permission to publish

5 According to accepted usage, the stenographic protocol and the Knesset Record contain only what is orally said in the plenum, from the rostrum or as an interjection. The printing of written additions or of documents submitted by Members is impossible, and they must be included in the speech itself; this restriction shall not apply to documents which Ministers request to append to their speeches (HCR - 11.7.72).

CHAPTER TWO

THE AGENDA

- Fixing the weekly agenda 31. The Speaker shall fix the weekly agenda for the sittings of the Knesset as provided in Rules 32 and 33 below, and in the provisions of the Rules of Procedure concerning proceedings on different matters and their order of priority, and shall inform the Members thereof not later than Friday of the preceding week.⁶
- Arrangement of the agenda 32. (a) The agenda of the sittings of the Knesset, for two of the three sitting days in the week, including changes and additions, shall be fixed by the Speaker as proposed by the Government.
- (b) One sitting each week, on its last sitting day, shall be set aside for the debate of motions for the agenda, or private members' bills; however, the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers may fix another time, in the same week or in the week following, for such debate, and the Members shall be informed accordingly.
- (c) The provision in paragraph (b) shall not apply to a week in which the Knesset debates the State budget.
- (d) At two sittings each week answers to questions shall be given; the sittings and times at which answers are to be given shall be fixed by the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers; the Members shall be informed before the opening of the sitting that the questions are to be answered.
- (e) If an extra sitting is fixed by the Speaker under Rule 27 (b), he shall fix its agenda.

6 "The duty of a Member of the Knesset is to be present in the Knesset and be ready for every discussion until the end of the sitting" (the Supreme Court, in High Court Case 59/76, not published).

33. (a) At any sitting, precedence shall pertain to a Government statement, to Members' motions for the agenda whose urgency has been confirmed under Rules 83-85, and to matters which the Knesset has decided to include on its agenda according to Members' urgent motions for the agenda, as well as to matters which require debate or a vote in the Knesset in pursuance of the law or the Rules of Procedure. Rights of precedence on the agenda
- (b) When a motion of no confidence in the Government has been submitted under Rule 36 (a), and the Government requests to make an urgent statement of special importance at the time fixed for debate of the motion, the statement shall be made, with the approval of the Speaker, before the debate on the motion, provided no debate is held on the statement immediately after its delivery.
- (c) Second and third readings of bills tabled in the Knesset shall be held under the provisions of Rules 125 and 129.
- (d) Matters which the Knesset has resolved to include on its agenda in pursuance of ordinary motions for the agenda, and matters brought to the Knesset plenum from the committees in pursuance of Rule 111 (b), shall be debated at a time fixed by the Speaker within three months from the day on which the resolution was adopted.
34. (a) If at a sitting designated for the debate of Members' motions for the agenda there are no motions before the Knesset which have been approved under Rule 78, or if time remains after the debate of the motions before it, the Knesset shall proceed with the agenda as fixed under Rule 32 (a). Government motions and Members' motions
- (b) If at a sitting designated for the debate of Government motions there are no matters before the Knesset as proposed by the Government, the Knesset shall proceed to debate Members' motions for the agenda approved under Rule 78,

or Members' bills under the provisions of Rule 135.

Prime
Minister's
statement

34A. (a) The Prime Minister shall open every parliamentary year with a statement on the activity of the Government in the period that has elapsed since the previous parliamentary year and the Government's plans for the approaching one.

(b) A party group debate shall be held on the statement.

Government
statements

35. The Government may at any time make a statement or announcement in the Knesset, and upon the request of thirty Members a debate shall be held on it when 24 hours have elapsed from the time of the submission of the request to the Speaker. However, the Government may ask that a debate according to such request be deferred for a further 48 hours.

No-
confidence
motion

36. (a) A party group or party groups the number of whose members is ten or more may propose an expression of no-confidence in the Government; a party group numbering less than ten members may present three motions to express no-confidence in the Government in every parliamentary year.

(b) A motion to express no-confidence in the Government can be by way of proposing an item for the agenda or as a proposal at the close of debate on any item placed on the agenda.

(c) No-confidence motions provided for in this Rule shall be debated at the first sitting of the Knesset in the week after presentation of the motion and shall postpone debate on any other item.

(d) For a motion under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) the grounds must be stated.

Agenda at
special
session

37. (a) When thirty Members request a special session of the Knesset, they may specify one or two matters for the agenda of that session.

(b) If one matter is specified in the request, the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall place it on the agenda of the special session as an urgent motion

for the agenda; if two matters are specified in the request, the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall place both matters on the agenda of the special session as urgent motions for the agenda, in the order indicated by the request, and if there is no such indication - in the order in which they appear in the request.

CHAPTER THREE

QUESTIONS

(see also House Committee Resolution at end of this book)

38. (a) A Member of the Knesset may address a question to a Minister on a factual matter which is within the range of that Minister's duties; if it is not clear to the questioner who is the Minister within whose range of duties the subject matter of the question lies, he shall address the question to the Prime Minister in order to have it transmitted to the Minister concerned. Submission of a question
- (b) The questions shall be briefly worded, and in the form of a question only; it shall be signed by the questioner and submitted to the Speaker in three copies.
39. A question shall not contain: Inadmissible questions
- (1) any name⁷ or disclosure whose publication is not necessary for the understanding of the question:

⁷ A Member submitting a question affecting the personal affairs of an individual (as distinct from a matter connected with the performance of a public function) shall refrain from mentioning in the question the name of the individual or other particulars which facilitate his identification, and shall furnish the Minister separately with the required details (HCR - 26.2.64).

- (2) any argument, judgement, or offensive epithet or expression;
- (3) a request for an opinion or for a solution of an abstract question of law or for an answer to a hypothetical proposition;
- (4) any offence to the dignity of the Knesset or to accepted morals.

Answer which is not to be given before Knesset

40. A questioner may request, in any question:

- (1) that the answer not be read in the Knesset, but sent to his address;
- (2) that the answer not be read in the Knesset, but published in the Knesset Record.

Transmittal of a question

41. (a) The Speaker shall transmit the question to the Minister to whom it is addressed if he does not find it inadmissible under the Rules or precedents; a question which the Speaker has transmitted is valid according to Rule 39.

(b) When the Speaker has ruled out a question he shall so inform the questioner, in writing, giving the reasons.

Refusal to give answer

42. The Minister questioned may refuse to answer the question if, in his opinion, the answer in public may be harmful to the affairs of the State. He shall note in a written answer that his refusal is due to this consideration.

Period for answer to question

43. (a) The Minister questioned must answer the question, or state that he refuses to answer it, within 21 days of receiving it.

(b) If the Minister is unable to answer the question within 21 days of receiving it, he shall inform the Speaker and the questioner in writing, before the 21 days elapse, of the reason for the delay and of the time when he will give the answer, provided that the appointed time shall not extend beyond a

further 21 days except with the consent of the Speaker.

- (c) If the appointed time has passed, and after a further seven days the question has not been answered, the Speaker shall fix a time for the answer to be given, and shall inform the Minister accordingly; and on that appointed time the question shall be laid on the table of the Knesset. Should the Minister not answer at that time, the Chairman of the sitting shall so inform the Knesset.
- (d) Recess days shall not enter into the reckoning of the periods mentioned in this rule unless the questioner has requested that the answer be sent to his address.
44. (a) Questions transmitted to Ministers questioned shall be marked with the names of the questioners and numbered according to their order of receipt by the Speaker. Marking and tabling of question
- (b) The text of the questions put down for answer on the agenda of a sitting shall be laid on the table of the Knesset.
45. (a) The Speaker shall call out the number of the question reached on the agenda and the name of the questioner, and the Minister questioned shall read his answer; to the content of an answer there shall apply all of the restrictions specified in Rule 39 with respect to the question; if the questioner is absent from the Chamber the Minister shall transfer his answer to the protocol, but the Minister may, if he so wishes, read out his answer even in the absence of the questioner. Procedure for answering question
- (b) With the consent of the questioner, or - when the circumstances so justify - on the authority of the Speaker, the Minister questioned may be represented by another Minister.
- (c) The questioner may, after hearing the answer, ask a short supplementary question orally,

provided that it is pertinent to the content of the answer.

- (d) If a supplementary question is asked, the Minister shall make a brief answer orally. However, he may refuse to give an answer for the reasons mentioned in the previous rules, or he may defer the answer until the next sitting of the Knesset at which there are questions; he may ask that the supplementary question be submitted as a new question, in which case he must answer it within seven days of receiving it.

CHAPTER FOUR

RULES OF DEBATE - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section A

Order of Speeches

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|---|
| Form of debate | 46. | The debates in the Knesset are held on a party-group or personal basis. |
| Subjects for party-group debate | 47. | <p>The following subjects are debated on a party-group basis:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the forming or resignation of the Government; (2) a budget proposal; (3) foreign policy; (4) defence policy; (5) a subject on which one of the party groups has informed the Speaker that it will move no-confidence in the Government; (6) a subject on which the Government has notified the Speaker that it will regard the |

Knesset's vote as a question of confidence in the Government;

- (7) a subject on which ten Members, or two party groups whose members together number not fewer than eight, have asked for a party-group debate.

48. For a party-group debate -

Procedure
for
party-group
debate

- (1) the House Committee shall fix the time to be allotted for the debate, and the time shall be divided proportionately to their size between the party groups, provided that in all such debates every party group shall have at least ten minutes;
- (2) every party group shall communicate in writing to the Speaker the names of its members who will participate in the debate, the order of their appearance and the amount of time that will be given to each, provided that the time allotted to a speaker shall not be less than eight minutes. Where at least six minutes remain to a group, it may communicate the name of an additional speaker;
- (3) the Speaker shall arrange the order of speakers among the party groups consecutively, taking into account the size of each group; however, in the first round of speakers -
- (a) the largest opposition party group shall be called to speak first;
- (b) the largest party group shall be permitted to put up four speakers, and the second largest party

group shall be permitted to put up two, alternating each speaker with one from another party group.

Procedure
for
personal
debate

49. For a personal debate -

- (1) any Member may inform the Speaker in writing of his desire to participate in the debate, and his name shall be entered in the list of speakers;
- (2) the Speaker shall determine the time to be allotted to each speaker, and the order of the speakers, and he may fix the total time for such debate and close the list of speakers;
- (3) if a Member asks for a different time to be fixed for his speech, his request shall be complied with, providing this can be done within the limits of the time allotted to the debate; but if a Member has not given notice that he will be absent from the sitting when his turn to speak arrives, and the Speaker calls his name and he is not in the Chamber, he loses his right to speak in that debate.

Member of
Government's
right to
speak

50. A member of the Government speaking in its name may request the right to speak at all stages of a debate, whether the debate is on a party group or personal basis.^{8 9}

8 A Deputy Minister shall be treated as a Minister, in regard to taking the right to speak, within the range of the matters which the Minister has entrusted to him (Interpretations Committee Resolution - 18.1.51).

9 A request of the Government or of an individual Minister, in the course of debate of a certain law or matter, to postpone further debate or to interrupt it, must be brought before the Knesset by a member of the Government (Interpretations Committee Resolution - 18.1.51.).

51. When an announcement has been made of a Minister's resignation in pursuance of Section 40 (a) (4) of Basic Law: The Government, the resigning Minister has the right to speak forthwith. Resigning Minister's right to speak
52. A debate on any item of the Knesset's agenda shall be opened and summed up¹⁰ according to the following rules: Opening and summing-up of debate
- (1) on a subject raised by the Government, a Minister or Deputy Minister shall open and sum up;
 - (2) on a subject raised by a committee of the Knesset, the committee chairman, or a member of the committee authorized by him to do so, shall open and sum up;
 - (3) on a subject which the Knesset has decided to debate in consequence of a motion for the agenda - ¹¹
 - (a) if the motion was made by a Member, the mover, or another Member in his name, shall open and sum up;
 - (b) if the motion was made jointly by a group of Members, one of the movers shall open and sum up;
 - (c) if the motion was made separately by Members from different party groups, the Government

10 At the close of debate on a certain matter the Chairman shall declare that "the debate is closed", and thenceforth the right to speak may not be given, whether the debate is on a party group or personal basis, except for the replying Minister (Decisions of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers -18.6.57 and 4.10.61).

11 In a debate held at the initiative of a Member who opens and sums up according to Rule 52 (3) (a), the precedents should be followed, that the Minister, if he so wishes, is given the right to speak after the summing up of the proposer (Decision of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers -7.1.62).

may open and sum up the debate; if the Government does not insist on this right, one of the movers, by agreement among them, shall open and sum up, and where there is no agreement, the debate shall be opened and summed up as decided by the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers.

Motion for order

53. (a) If a Member asks permission from the Chairman of the sitting to propose a motion for order regarding the conduct of the sitting or of a vote (hereinafter referred to as a motion for order), the Chairman shall decide whether to agree to the request.¹²
- (b) A request to propose a motion for order shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing; however, a request to propose a motion for order of a vote may also be made orally.
- (c) When the Chairman of the sitting has given a Member permission to propose a motion for order, the Member, on proposing the motion, may offer an explanation for up to one minute.
- (d) The Chairman of the sitting shall decide whether to accept or reject the motion for order.

Personal statement

54. (a) A Member seeking permission to make a personal statement shall first inform the Chairman in writing of the statement's contents.
- (b) Permission shall not be given for a personal statement except for the correction of a misunderstanding that has arisen over the words of the Member making the request, or for the rejection of an accusation made in the Knesset.

12 In accordance with the Rules and the usage and practice accepted in the Knesset, during a vote or a series of votes in the Knesset the right to speak may not be given except for a motion on the order of voting (Interpretation Committee Resolution - 28.7.78).

- (c) A personal statement shall not take longer than five minutes; the time for personal statements is at the end of the sitting.
55. (a) In a debate on a bill the right to make a statement shall be given to any party group- Party-group statement in debate on bill
- (1) that did not participate in the debate and did not participate in, or abstained on, a vote on first reading;
 - (2) that did not participate in, or abstained on, a vote on third reading;
 - (3) that did not submit a reservation on second reading and received permission to make a statement from the committee in which the bill was deliberated.
- (b) A statement under this rule shall be made after the vote and shall not take longer than five minutes.¹³

-
- 13 The House Committee has decided to approve as a precedent, under Rule 147, the following practice regarding statements of abstainers from voting:
- (a) a Member who abstained on a vote in which his party group participated, may make a statement if -
 - (i) the debate is not upon a motion for the agenda or a second reading of a bill;
 - (ii) his party group has agreed thereto;
 - (iii) he did not participate in the debate.
 - (b) If there are a number of party group members to whom paragraph (a) applies - the right to make a statement shall be given to one of them only, and in the statement he may mention the names of those members.
 - (c) A statement as provided for in paragraph (a) shall be made after the vote and shall not take longer than five minutes (HCR - 24.11.70).

- Party-group statement in debate other than on bill 56. In a debate on a subject other than a bill any party-group that did not participate in the debate and did not participate in, or abstained on, the vote, may make a statement; a statement under this rule shall be made after the vote and shall not take longer than five minutes.¹⁴
- Party-group statements instead of debate 57. When the House Committee has decided on party-group statements instead of debate, the statements shall be made before the vote; the time for statements under this rule shall be fixed by the House Committee within the limits of five to ten minutes.
- Speakers at special sitting 58. At a special sitting of the Knesset held to mark an event^{15 16 17} the Speaker, or a Member appointed by him for the purpose, shall speak, and the Prime Minister, or a member of the Government appointed by him for the purpose, may also speak.
- In memory of the deceased 58A. (a) If a former Member dies, the Knesset shall honour his memory by standing in silence at one of the next sittings, and the Chairman of the sitting shall say words in his memory.
- (b) If a Member of the Knesset or the Government dies while in office, or if a former Knesset Speaker,

14 In accordance with a resolution of the Interpretations Committee abstainers on a vote on a motion for the agenda are to be given the right of explanation according to Rule 56 (HCR - 21.1.75).

15 There should be no deviation from the present usage with regard to the right to speak of guests in the Knesset: Presidents, Kings and Emperors, and the President of the United Nations General Assembly while in office, the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Inter-parliamentary Union shall be allowed to deliver their greetings from the Knesset rostrum (HCR - 24.11.64, 26.3.66, 24.3.70, 18.11.77 and 30.11.81).

16 At the end of a speech according to note 15 applause in the plenum is permitted (HCR - 11.1.94).

17 The President of Egypt shall be invited to speak from the rostrum of the Knesset at the special sitting of the Knesset on November 20 1977. The speakers may deliver their speeches in the English language (HCR - 20.11.77).

Prime Minister or Member of the Government dies, the Knesset shall hold a special sitting in memory of the deceased. The Speaker shall open with words in memory of the deceased, and two Members chosen by the Speaker may speak.

Section B

Resolutions

59. (a) In a debate on a matter other than a bill any party group or combination of party groups may propose a motion on the summation of the debate. The motion shall be submitted first in writing to the Speaker. Resolutions
other than
on bills
- (b) After the summing up of the debate in pursuance of Rule 52 the Speaker shall put each of the motions to a vote separately.
- (c) If a motion includes two or more parts, and a request is made by the proposers, or with their concurrence, to vote on each part separately, the Speaker shall ask, before putting the motion to a vote, whether there is opposition to the request; if no opposition is expressed the vote shall be taken as requested; if opposition is expressed the Knesset shall decide by a prior vote, without debate, whether to agree to the request. If separate votes are taken as aforesaid, each part shall be regarded as a motion by itself.
60. (a) The order of voting shall be determined by the Speaker;¹⁸ he may decide that a question of principle be put to a vote first. Order of
voting
- (b) The Government is entitled to have a proposal which it has made voted on first.

18 The Chairman of a sitting has the inherent authority to interrupt a sitting before a vote or to fix a time for a vote not directly following the end of debate (HCR - 8.11.60).

- Call to vote 61. Before any vote or sequence of votes the Speaker shall inform all Members who are outside the Chamber of the vote or sequence of votes by a ring that shall be heard throughout all Knesset buildings.¹⁹
- Methods of voting 62. (a) Votes are taken by a raising of hands.
- (b) Upon the request of at least twenty Members, or of the Government, a roll-call vote shall be taken.
- (c) Elections held pursuant to a law shall be taken by written secret ballot.
- (d) A vote on the lifting of a Member's immunity or right under the Immunity, Rights and Duties of Members of the Knesset Law, 5711-1951, shall, subject to the provisions of paragraph (b), be taken by open ballot.
- Determining results of vote 63. (a) When the Speaker sees that the proposal put to a vote has received a majority or has been rejected by a majority, the votes are not counted.^{20 21 22}
- (b) If the results of the vote are not clear to the Speaker, the votes shall be counted by the Secretary General or one of his deputies.

19 Voting shall be held not before five minutes have elapsed since the start of the ringing of the bell (HCR -29.7.80).

20 Section 25 of Basic Law: The Knesset provides:
"25. Save as otherwise provided by Law, the Knesset shall pass its decisions by a majority of those participating in the voting - those abstaining not being reckoned as participating - and the voting procedure shall be prescribed by the Rules."

21 Where a proposal has received a majority without the votes being counted, and as a result thereof the ratio of the majority has not been made clear (in a vote where a special majority is required), the Chairman is vested with the (inherent) authority to order a recount, during the course of the same sitting or immediately thereafter (High Court Case 410/91).

22 Where a Member who has participated during the voting in the Knesset claims that his vote has not been recorded (by electronic apparatus) or requests to change his vote because of a mistake, the Chairman of the sitting shall consider the request submitted to him immediately after the voting, and his decision to change the result shall be given soon after the voting (Replacing HCR 22.4.91).

- (c) If the Speaker decides of his own accord, or upon the request of a Member, that the votes be counted by tellers from among the Members, he shall choose two or more Members and assign the counting to them.^{23 24}

64. When a resolution on the summation of a debate is adopted, calling for an action by the Government, the Speaker shall transmit the text of the resolution to the Minister within the range of whose duties the subject dealt with belongs. If it is not clear who is the Minister within whose range of duties the subject of the resolution belongs, the Speaker shall transmit the text of the resolution to the Prime Minister. Within six months of the adoption of the resolution the Minister shall inform the Speaker in writing of any action he has taken in consequence of the resolution. The Minister's statement shall be laid on the table of the Knesset.
- Proceedings
on
resolution
of Knesset

Section C

Further Provisions

65. (a) A Member shall not speak in the Knesset unless he has received permission to speak from the Speaker. Right to
speak
-
- 23 (a) If the results of the voting are not clear to the Chairman, the Secretary General shall count the votes.
 (b) If the results of the voting are not clear even after the counting, the Chairman of the sitting shall - before announcing the results - appoint two tellers for a second count of the votes.
 (c) If the Chairman has been so requested by a Member, or finds it necessary to do so under the circumstances, before announcing the results of the voting - he shall appoint tellers to count the votes (Decision of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers, of which the House Committee took note - 2.12.80).
- 24 In connection with Rule 63: Where the Chairman of the sitting has announced that the vote has resulted in a tie, whether or not he mentioned the number of votes, the motion or bill is not adopted, and the voting may not be repeated (Interpretations Committee Resolution - 7.3.78).

- (b) A Member who has received permission to speak shall speak from the rostrum; however, with the permission of the Speaker, a Member may ask a question or make a remark from his place.

Restriction
of
references

66. (a) A speech from the rostrum of the Knesset shall not contain mention of an opinion or position of a Minister, of a Member or of a party group, which they have expressed in a committee of the Knesset; this restriction shall not apply if the opinion or position was formulated in committee as a proposal or statement of the Minister, Member or party group for the Knesset plenum.
- (b) A speech from the rostrum of the Knesset shall not contain mention of any conversation held between a Member and a Minister or between one Member and another.

Remark to
speaker

67. (a) If a Member does not speak on the subject which is before the house, or continues speaking after the Speaker has informed him that his time is up, the Speaker shall make a remark to him.
- (b) If a Member continues to speak after the Speaker has interrupted him, or if he does not heed the Speaker's remark under this rule, the Speaker may discontinue the recording of the Member's words in the protocol.

Compliance
with
directions

68. (a) Members must comply with instructions of the Speaker during sittings.
- (b) A Member offended by a decision, remark or instruction of the Speaker may appeal to the House Committee; the decision of the House Committee shall be final.

Call to
order

69. A Member who, at a Knesset sitting, conducts himself in a manner offensive to the dignity of the Knesset or of one of its Members, or in a manner disturbing orderly proceedings, shall be admonished by the Speaker with a call to order.

70. (a) After the Speaker has called a Member to order three times at one sitting, the Speaker may deprive him of the right to speak at that sitting or have him removed from the sitting; if need be, the Speaker may give instructions for the removal of the Member by force. A Member removed as aforesaid may rejoin the sitting for the purpose of voting only. Denial of right to speak, removal and exclusion from sitting
- (b) When a Member has been removed from a sitting the House Committee shall consider the matter at its next sitting; the Committee may decide to exclude the Member from as many as five Knesset sittings.
71. If a Member does not heed the directions of the Speaker after having been called to order three times, the Speaker may suspend the sitting for a short while. Suspension of sitting
- 71A. (a) If a Member, whether on the rostrum or in making a point from his place, displays any article, or acts inappropriately in the circumstances of the case, the Speaker shall instruct him, if he finds it necessary, to descend from the rostrum, and shall withdraw his permission to speak. Inappropriate display or action
- (b) A Member whose permission to speak has been withdrawn under the provisions of this rule shall not request and shall not receive permission to speak in the plenum during three sitting days.
- (c) (1) A Member thus denied the right to speak may appeal against the denial of his right at the next meeting of the House Committee, which may annul or shorten the said period.
- (2) An appeal under this rule shall be presented through the Speaker; if an appeal has been presented, the right to speak shall be denied only on the day when the Speaker so instructed, and the remainder of the period of denial of the right shall be postponed

until after the decision of the House Committee is rendered; the Speaker shall thus notify the Knesset.

Removal
and
exclusion
from sitting

72. (a) Should a Member disturb the orderly proceeding of a Knesset sitting or offend the dignity of the Speaker, the Speaker may put to a vote, without debate, the question of removing the Member from the sitting and, if need be, give instructions for his removal by force.
- (b) If the disturbance was serious the matter shall be brought by the Speaker and Deputy Speakers before the House Committee, and it may decide on the exclusion of the Member from a number of Knesset sittings not exceeding five. This provision is applicable whether the Member was dealt with according to paragraph (a) or not.

Declaration
of
allegiance

- 72A. (a) If the Speaker has called upon a Member to declare allegiance and the Member declares otherwise than in the wording of the law, the Speaker shall determine that the Member has refrained from declaring allegiance, and the Member shall not participate in that sitting.
- (b) A Member who has refrained from declaring allegiance as aforesaid in paragraph (a) shall not participate in sittings of the Knesset until he declares allegiance according to law.

Appeal

73. If the House Committee decides to exclude a Member from Knesset sittings, he may appeal against the decision before the Knesset at a time that shall be fixed by the Speaker; the Knesset shall hear the appellant and the opponent to the appeal, each within the limit of 15 minutes, and shall decide the question without further debate.

Removal
by force

74. If a Member continues to disobey also after the renewal of a sitting suspended under Rule 71 or if, in defiance of a decision of the House Committee or of the Knesset under Rule 72, he refuses to leave the Chamber, the Speaker may decide on his removal

from the Chamber by force and shall instruct the Sergeant-at-Arms accordingly.

CHAPTER FIVE

MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR THE AGENDA

75. A Member may raise a motion in the Knesset that it include in its agenda a debate on a certain subject (in these Rules referred to as a motion for the agenda); the proceedings on the motion shall be according to this chapter. Motion for the agenda
76. A motion for the agenda shall be submitted to the Speaker in writing or by telegram, in his office in the Knesset Building, not later than 12.00 noon on the Monday of the week in which the sitting reserved for Members' motions for the agenda is to be held; a motion submitted after that time shall not be included in the list of motions to be debated that week. Submission of a motion for the agenda
77. A Member submitting a motion for the agenda shall add brief words of explanation on the nature of the motion. Words of explanation
78. (a) A motion for the agenda requires the approval of the Speaker.²⁵ The Speaker may refuse to approve a motion if in its contents or wording - Approval by Speaker
- (1) it implies a personal insult or a derogatory judgment about another person;
 - (2) it is about a matter that is to be debated in the Knesset that week, or that came up for debate or was proposed as a motion for the agenda within the four weeks preceding the

²⁵ Motions for the agenda remaining at the beginning of the recess shall be void unless the movers renew them after the recess (Decision of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers -16.7.57).

date of its submission, unless in the meantime changes have occurred that justify a fresh debate of the matter;

(3) it is about a matter that is sub judice.

(b) A Member whose motion for the agenda has not been approved may appeal to the House Committee and its decision shall be final.

Committal
of motion

79. (a) If the Speaker, after consulting with the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, finds that the raising of a motion for the agenda and debate thereon in the Knesset plenum are liable to harm the security or foreign relations of the State, or privileged international economic activities, he may decide that the motion be deliberated in a committee, and if he does so, he shall communicate the decision at the weekly meeting of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers.

(b) When the Speaker has decided, under paragraph (a), that a motion shall be deliberated in a committee, the committee shall hear the mover and decide whether the subject of the motion shall be included on its agenda; if the committee decides to include the motion on its agenda, the motion shall be treated as a matter referred by the Knesset for deliberation in this committee, and the provisions of Chapter Six shall apply.

(c) When it has been decided to deliberate a motion in a committee in pursuance of paragraph (a), the provisions of Rules 82 to 84 shall not apply to the motion, and the committee shall deliberate the motion as provided in paragraph (b) at one of its next two meetings.

(d) A motion deliberated in a committee pursuant to this rule shall be counted among the motions which a party group may submit under Rule 81.

Agenda of
sitting
reserved
for motions

80. (a) The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall fix the agenda for the sitting at which Members' motions for the agenda are to be debated, taking

into account the size of the party groups of which the proposers are members.

- (b) When there are motions on the same subject they shall be debated in the order of their submission.

81. (a) The House Committee shall fix the number of motions for the agenda and Members' bills which may be submitted from each party group in the course of a parliamentary year in proportion to their size. However, the Committee shall provide more possibilities, as it sees fit, to party groups not represented in the Government.²⁶

Quota of motions and bills for party group

- (b) A motion taken up as urgent under Rule 82 shall not be counted for the purpose of this rule.

82. A Member submitting a motion for the agenda may request that his motion stand for urgent debate in the Knesset (hereinafter referred to as an urgent motion); an urgent motion shall be submitted to the Speaker in writing or by telegram, in his office in the Knesset Building.

Urgent motion

83. (a) The urgency of a motion requires confirmation by the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers.

Confirmation of urgency of motion

- (b) A motion for the agenda shall be confirmed as urgent if the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers have determined -

- (1) that debate of the motion in the Knesset may prevent an act or omission that is irreparable,
or

²⁶ Where a Member has submitted a bill for preliminary debate and the Government has given notice that it agrees that the bill be referred to a committee, or that it does not intend to take a stand with regard to the bill, and the bill has been presented by the proposer from his seat within a time limit not exceeding one minute, it shall not be counted among the proposals according to Rule 81. If the explanation has taken more than one minute, the bill shall be counted among the said proposals (HCR - 16.2.93).

(2) that the subject of the motion is of urgent public interest.

Time of
debate of
urgent
motion

84. (a) A motion confirmed as urgent shall be debated by the Knesset in the week in which it was submitted and at a time fixed by the Speaker and Deputy Speakers.
- (b) When a motion is submitted on the last sitting day of the week, or on the last day of the last week of a session of the Knesset, the motion shall be debated the same day, if the Speaker and Deputy Speakers have so decided with the concurrence of the House Committee.

Determina-
tion of
House
Committee
on urgency
of motion

85. (a) A motion not confirmed as urgent shall be transmitted by the Speaker, upon the request of the Member who submitted it, to the House Committee for a determination on its urgency and shall be taken up as the first item of business at the Committee's next meeting.
- (b) If the Committee determines that the motion is urgent, it shall be debated by the Knesset the same week, subject to the provisions of Rule 84.

Motions
for the
agenda by
a majority
of Members

86. (a) When a number of motions for the agenda on the same subject have been submitted by Members from different party groups who together constitute a majority of the Knesset, the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers may regard the subject as one which the Knesset has decided to debate following upon a motion for the agenda, and the subject shall be included in the Knesset's agenda.
- (b) The time for debate of a subject under paragraph (a) shall be fixed by the Speaker within a month, and if the Knesset is to go into recess before the end of that period, the Speaker, with the consent of the proposers, may fix a later time for the debate; and if there is no consent between the proposers the House Committee shall fix the time.
- (c) The provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) shall apply also to motions whose urgency has been confirmed by the Speaker and the Deputy

Speakers, except that the debate shall be held in the week in which the motions were submitted, subject to the provisions of Rule 84.

- (d) The provisions of Rule 52 (3) (c) shall apply to the order of debate under this rule.
- (e) A motion under this rule shall not be counted among the motions which a party group may submit under Rule 81.

87. When the Speaker has approved a motion for the agenda he shall so inform the Government, and the Government shall give notice as to whether it intends to take a stand on the motion.

Government
notice

88. (a) At a Knesset sitting reserved for the debate of motions for the agenda, the mover, or a member of his party group, shall explain the motion within the time-limit of fifteen minutes; when a motion has been submitted by a number of Members together, the explanation shall be given by one of the Members.

Order of
proceeding
on motion
for the
agenda

(b) After the explanation in pursuance of paragraph (a) a member of the Government, speaking on the Government's behalf, may propose that the subject raised be debated in the Knesset, or that it be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset, or that it not be included in the Knesset's agenda.

(c) When a member of the Government has proposed that the subject raised not be included on the agenda, a Member of the Knesset, whether from the mover's party group or not, may propose that the subject be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset; when a member of the Government has proposed that the subject be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset, a Member of the Knesset may propose that it not be included on the Knesset agenda.

(d) If the Government has not asked to take a stand on the subject raised, or if a member of the

Government has proposed that it be debated in the Knesset, a Member of the Knesset may propose that the subject not be included on the Knesset agenda; and another Member of the Knesset, whether from the mover's party group or not, may propose that the subject be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset.

- (e) When a member of the Government has proposed that the subject raised be debated in the Knesset or deliberated by a committee of the Knesset he shall explain his proposal within the time limit of fifteen minutes.
- (f) If one of the Members has proposed that the subject raised not be included in the Knesset agenda, or that the subject raised be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset, he shall explain his proposal from his seat within the time-limit of one minute.
- (g) On a motion the subject of which is an action of a party group which is not the party group of the mover, or an action of a Member of the Knesset who belongs to another party group, a member of that party group, speaking on its behalf, or the said Member of the Knesset, shall have the right of reply within the time-limit of ten minutes; the reply shall be given immediately after the explanation of the motion for the agenda and before the proposal of the member of the Government speaking on its behalf.

Number of requests to make alternative proposal

89. Should a number of Members request to make one of the proposals pursuant to Rule 88 (c) or (d), the order in which the requests were submitted shall determine who has the right of explanation, with priority to be given to a Member not from the mover's party group.

Reply to a number of motions

90. (a) Should a number of motions for the agenda on the same subject be proposed, a member of the Government may reply at the same time to all of the motions or to some of them, and the restriction in Rule 88 (e) shall not apply to him.

(b) If the Government does not take a stand as provided in paragraph (a), or if a member of the Government makes one of the proposals as provided for in Rule 88 (b) and (c), a Member of the Knesset, with the consent of the Chairman of the sitting, may propose that all or some of the motions not be included on the Knesset agenda; the time of explanation of such proposal shall not exceed ten minutes. A Member may also propose that all of the motions, or some of them, be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset; the time of explanation of such proposal shall not exceed ten minutes.

91. When a motion has been rejected by the Knesset and no one proposes that the subject of the motion be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset, the mover may himself make such proposal forthwith. The mover may also make such proposal before the rejection of the motion is decided upon. A proposal under this rule shall not be explained. Motion for deliberation in committee
92. The vote whether to include the subject of a motion on the agenda of the Knesset shall be taken after the explanation of the motion or motions under Rules 88, 89 and 90; if the subject is not accepted for the agenda and a proposal is made that it be deliberated by a committee of the Knesset, the Chairman of the sitting shall put the proposal to a vote; when there are a number of motions on the same subject, the Chairman may put all of the motions, or any number of them, to one vote, or he may put to a separate vote each motion; however, he shall put to a separate vote any motion if the mover or any party group has so requested. Voting on motions for the agenda
93. Should the Government request the postponement of a vote and the mover agree, the Chairman of the sitting shall ask if there is opposition to the postponement, and any one of the Members may oppose the postponement, without explanation; if there be opposition the Chairman shall put the questions to a vote; where the Knesset decides in favour of the Postponement of vote on motion for the agenda

postponement the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall fix a time for the vote and inform the Members in advance accordingly; there shall not be any further debate in the Knesset on the subject of postponement before that vote is taken.

- Debate on matter which Knesset has decided to debate
94. (a) When the Knesset has decided to include in its agenda the subject of a motion, it shall be so included and the Speaker - after consultation with the Government - shall fix the time for the debate in accordance with his authority under Rule 31.
- (b) When the Knesset has decided to include in its agenda a proposal to appoint a Commission of Inquiry under section 22 of Basic Law: The Knesset, the proposal shall be debated within thirty days from the day of the decision.
- Determination which committee to deliberate subject
95. Should the Knesset decide that the subject of a motion for the agenda be deliberated by a committee but not by which committee, whether because different committees were proposed or no particular committee was proposed, the House Committee shall decide which committee is to deliberate the subject, and when the House Committee has made the decision, the chairman of the House Committee shall announce the decision from the rostrum of the Knesset.
- Withdrawal of motion for the agenda
96. (a) A Member may withdraw his motion at any time before the vote taken in pursuance of Rule 92, and if he withdraws the motion, it shall be removed from the agenda of the Knesset.
- (b) Should a Member wish to withdraw his motion after the Knesset has decided to include the subject on the agenda, he shall so inform the Speaker; the Speaker shall notify the Knesset of the request, and the Knesset shall decide, without further debate, whether to remove the subject from the agenda.
- (c) Should a Member wish to withdraw his motion after the Knesset has decided that the subject be

considered by a committee, he shall so inform the chairman of the committee; the chairman of the committee shall communicate the request to the Knesset if the committee so agrees, and the Knesset shall decide regarding the request without further notification or debate.

- (d) If a subject has been on the agenda of the Knesset for six months and the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers find that the grounds for its inclusion have expired, the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers may propose to the Knesset that the matter be removed from the agenda, and the Knesset shall decide the question without further debate. Where the Member who moved the motion is opposed to the proposal of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers, he shall receive the right to speak for ten minutes in order to explain his opposition, and the Knesset shall decide the question without further debate.

97. A Minister stating the position of the Government on a motion for the agenda, and any other Minister concerned, has the right to speak at any stage of the debate under the provisions of this chapter in order to correct statements of fact made in the debate.

Ministers' right to speak

CHAPTER SIX

BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEES

98. The chairman of a committee shall call the members of the committee to regular meetings held at times fixed by the committee; urgent meetings of the committee shall be called by the chairman on his initiative, or upon a request of one-third of the committee members, or upon a request of the Government.

Committee meetings

99. (a) The House Committee may charge any committee of the Knesset with the task of continuing its work during the recess.

Committee meetings during recess

(b) During the recess the Speaker shall convene any committee of the Knesset upon a request of the Government or of one-third of the members of the committee.

Quorum at committee meetings

100. The chairman of a committee may hold meetings of the committee with any number of members present provided that all members were called to the meeting.

Meetings not public

101. The meetings of a committee are not public except when the committee has decided otherwise.

The protocol

102. (a) At committee meetings a protocol shall be kept containing a list of the persons present, a summary of the proceedings, and proposals and committee resolutions.

(b) Anyone who wishes to correct a distortion, mistake or omission in a protocol shall apply in writing to the chairman of the committee and set forth the correction requested; the chairman of the committee shall bring the proposal of correction to the committee for its decision at its earliest meeting.

Members' inspection of protocols

102A. (a) Any Member of the Knesset may inspect the protocols of all the committees, including protocols of committees from previous Knessets, except for privileged meetings, with the approval of the chairman of the committee. If the chairman of the committee refuses to permit inspection as aforesaid, the Speaker shall determine the matter.

(b) Inspection shall take place in the committee room, but the chairman of the committee may permit inspection as aforesaid outside the committee room as well, provided that the Member of the Knesset shall not photograph the protocol, shall not publish it and shall not transfer it to the inspection of anyone unauthorized to inspect it.

(c) The chairman of a committee shall authorize one of the members of the committee to permit inspection as aforesaid in his absence and that member shall have, for this purpose, all the powers of the chairman of the committee.

(d) (1) A member of a committee may inspect protocols even of privileged meetings of that committee, including protocols of that committee from previous Knessets, provided that he may not inspect protocols of privileged meetings of sub-committees of the committee; this proviso shall not apply to the chairman of the committee.

(2) A member of a sub-committee may inspect protocols even of privileged meetings of that sub-committee, including protocols from previous Knessets.

(e) In this Rule, "privileged meeting" means-

(1) any meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, or of a sub-committee thereof except for a meeting regarding which the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee has announced that it is not privileged;

(2) any meeting of another committee or sub-committee regarding which the chairman of the permanent committee has announced, not later than 48 hours after the end of the meeting, that it is privileged;

(3) any meeting of a committee deliberating a motion committed to it under Rule 79.

102B. (a) Protocols of public meetings shall be open for inspection. Inspection
of protocols

(b) Protocols of meetings which are not public, except for meetings of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, shall be open for inspection if a period has passed of 15 years from the day of conclusion of deliberation of bills or of 25 years from the day of conclusion of deliberation of any other subject.

- (c) Protocols of meetings of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee which are not public shall be open to inspection by the public if there has passed a period of 30 years from the day of conclusion of deliberation in full committee or of 50 years from the day of conclusion of deliberation in a sub-committee of the committee, unless the chairman of the committee is of the opinion that inspection might harm the security of the State, its foreign relations, privileged international economic activities or Jewish communities or groupings the world over and endanger their immigration to Israel.
- (d) The chairman of a committee may, with the approval of the majority of the members of the committee, permit inspection of protocols even before the expiry of the aforesaid periods, if he finds justification for so doing, provided that he is satisfied that inspection would not harm the security of the State, its foreign relations, privileged international economic activities or Jewish communities or groupings the world over or endanger their immigration to Israel.
- (e) The chairman of a committee may permit protocols to be furnished to state bodies for purposes of their work.

Application of Archives Regulations 102C. The provisions of the Archives Regulations (Inspection of Archival Material deposited in the State Archives), 5727-1966, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the inspection of protocols and the furnishing of copies thereof.

- The agenda 103. (a) The agenda for a committee meeting shall be fixed by the chairman of the committee; any member of the committee may have an item added to the agenda with the concurrence of a majority of the committee, provided that such item be deliberated after the items placed on the agenda by the chairman.
- (b) Precedence shall be given to the deliberation of bills included on the agenda.

- 103A. A Knesset Member who, at a committee meeting, conducts himself in a manner offensive to the dignity of the Knesset, of the committee, or of one of its members, shall be admonished by the chairman of the committee with a call to order. Call to order in committee
- 103B. After the chairman of the committee has called a Knesset Member to order three times at one meeting, the chairman may deprive him of his right to speak at that meeting or have him removed from the meeting; if need be, the chairman may direct that the Member be removed by force. Denial of right to speak, removal and exclusion from meeting
- 103C. Where a Knesset Member has been removed from a meeting, or meetings, of a committee, his party group may send another Member to take his place. Substitution for Member removed from meeting
- 103D. Where a Knesset Member removed from a meeting or meetings of a committee belongs to a one-member group, he shall be permitted to enter a meeting for the purpose of voting only. Voting
- 103E. A Knesset Member removed from a committee meeting may appeal against his removal before the House Committee. Appeal
- 103F. (a) If the chairman of the committee is of the opinion that the conduct of the Knesset Member removed from the committee meeting was irremissible he may bring the matter before the House Committee, which is authorized to exclude the Knesset Member from a number of meetings of that committee not exceeding five; where the Knesset Member is not a member of the committee from which he has been excluded, the House Committee may exclude him as aforesaid from one of the committees of which he is a member. Consideration by House Committee
- (b) The Knesset Member who was removed and the committee chairman who had him removed shall each be given an opportunity to be

heard before the House Committee concludes its deliberations of the matter.

Restriction
on
participation
in
committee
meetings

103G. (a) Members of a committee shall participate in its deliberations and in votes taken by it, subject to the rules of ethics of Knesset Members.

(b) A Knesset Member who is a party to a complaint shall be present at a meeting of the House Committee so as to present his arguments and to give answers to questions, and shall also be present at the stage of discussing the complaint; when the committee has completed its deliberations, it shall sum up its position and adopt its decision not in the presence of such a Knesset Member even if he is a member of the committee.

(c) For the purposes of paragraph (b), "a party to a complaint" is -

(1) the person who complained or was complained against under Rule 13 (a) (1);

(2) the person who requested the removal of a Knesset Member from sittings of the Knesset, or from meetings of a committee, and a Member whose removal is being discussed under rules 70(b), 72(b) or 103F(a);

(3) a Knesset Member who has appealed against the decision of the Chairman of the sitting or of a committee chairman under rules 68(b) and 103E and the Chairman of the sitting or the committee chairman concerned.

Participation
of Knesset
Members
not
members
of the
committee

104. (a) The chairman of a permanent committee shall invite to its deliberation a Member of the Knesset who is not a member of the committee, who has made a motion referred for deliberation in the committee, or who has proposed an amendment to any proposal within the scope of its

deliberations (hereinafter referred to as the proposer), so that he may present his proposal.

- (b) If the meeting is privileged, within the meaning of the term in Rule 102A(e), the chairman of the committee shall determine the extent of the proposer's participation in deliberations conducted after he has presented his proposal.
- (c) In a meeting not privileged, the proposer shall be invited to participate in the deliberations.
- (d) When a proposer has been invited as aforesaid to participate in deliberations and his proposal has not been accepted by the committee, the chairman shall decide whether to permit him to enter a reservation.

105. A permanent committee may invite to its deliberations permanent observers from the party groups not represented on the committee, provided there is no opposition to the invitation in the committee.

Invitation
of
observers

106. A permanent committee may from time to time invite to its sittings -

Invitation
of experts
and others

(1) an expert on the matter being deliberated by the committee, whether he is a Member of the Knesset or not;

(2) the representative of any body or group, or any other person, having an interest in the matter being deliberated by the committee, so as to hear his views and to ask him to reply to questions it sees fit to put to him.

106A.(a) Without derogating from the provisions of Rule 106 and subject to the provisions of section 21(b) of Basic Law: The Knesset, a permanent committee may invite to its meetings State employees, employees of government companies, employees of corporations established by a Law, employees of local authorities and employees of religious councils

Invitation
of
employees
and office
holders

with regard to any matter which the Knesset plenum has referred for deliberation by the committee according to Rules 14(a), 111, 118 and 138 and according to any other law; any person so invited shall appear before the committee and furnish it with the information that he has in regard to the subject under deliberation, but the Minister in charge, or the head of the body in whose service the invitee acts, may notify the committee that he himself will appear instead of the person summoned.

- (b) The provision of paragraph (a) shall apply to office-holders and other officials of bodies mentioned in paragraph (a), even if they are not employees in them.

Mode of
invitation

106B. (a) A State employee shall be summoned through the Minister concerned with the matter and in coordination with him.

- (b) An employee of a government company or an employee of a corporation established by a Law shall be summoned through the director-general of the company or corporation; a director-general of such a company or corporation shall be summoned with the knowledge of the chairman of the board of directors or of the council of the company or corporation, as the case may be; a director or council member in a government company or in a corporation established by a Law shall be summoned through the chairman of the board of directors or of the council of the company or corporation, as the case may be; and in every case, in coordination with the Minister concerned with the matter.

- (c) A member of the council of a local authority and an employee of a local authority shall be summoned through the head of the local authority.

- (d) A member or employee of a religious council shall be summoned through the chairman of the religious council and with the knowledge of the Minister of Religious Affairs.

(e) In this rule and in Rule 106E, "the Minister concerned with the matter" is -

(1) the Minister charged with the ministry or with implementation of the Law in virtue of which the corporation was established;

(2) in case of a government company - the Minister determined by law to be responsible for the company's affairs;

(3) in case of a religious council - the Minister of Religious Affairs.

- 106C. A permanent committee may demand that a Minister or his representative appear before it, for the purposes of Rule 14 (b), once a month. Minister's appearance
- 106D. The appearance of a person invited to appear before a permanent committee according to Rules 14, 106 or 106A, shall be, if he so requests of the chairman of the committee, not in the presence of other invitees who are not Government representatives. Exclusivity of appearance
- 106E. If a person invited to appear before a permanent committee fails to do so, the committee shall notify the fact to the Minister concerned with the matter or to the head of the local authority concerned with the matter, and they shall notify the committee of the disciplinary steps they have taken in the case. Non-appearance
107. A Minister may bring to the deliberations of a committee the assistants whom he needs, or be represented by an assistant whom he has authorized. Representation of Minister
108. Communication between a committee of the Knesset and any ministry of the Government shall be maintained exclusively through the Minister concerned. Communication with ministries

- Recommendations 109. (a) On a matter concerning which a Minister may make regulations with legislative effect, a committee may vote upon recommendations only.
- (b) On a matter which requires legislation by the Knesset a committee may make a recommendation only regarding a specific question.
- Reconsideration 110. Whenever the majority of a committee requests the reconsideration of a resolution passed by the committee but not yet laid on the table of the Knesset, the matter resolved upon shall be reconsidered.
- Conclusions of committee 111. (a) On a matter not a bill which has been referred for deliberation to a committee, the committee shall bring its conclusions to the attention of the Members of the Knesset by laying them on the table of the Knesset, unless the committee has resolved, for special reasons which it shall note in the resolution, not to publish the conclusions; but the committee need not publish the reasons for its resolution. Committee conclusions laid on the table of the Knesset shall have appended to them the conclusions of the minority, or of an individual member of the committee, if there were such.
- (b) Where the Knesset has not resolved beforehand to debate the conclusions of a committee the Government may propose that a debate on the committee's conclusions be included on the agenda of the Knesset; likewise, any Member of the Knesset, by a motion for the agenda, may propose that a debate as aforesaid be included on the agenda of the Knesset.
- (c) The Speaker shall transmit the conclusions of the committee to the Minister within the range of whose duties the matter lies. If it is not clear who is the Minister within the range of whose duties the matter lies the Speaker shall transmit the committee's conclusions to the Prime Minister.

- (d) Within three months of the receipt of the conclusions the Minister shall inform the Speaker in writing of any action which he has taken in consequence of the conclusions. The Minister's statement shall be laid on the table of the Knesset.
- (e) The conclusions of the committee shall be appended to the Knesset Record.
112. (a) If six months have passed from the day on which a subject was referred to a committee under Rule 111, or from the day on which a subject was referred to a committee under Rule 116 (a), Rule 117, Rule 138 (a), or Rule 141, and the committee has not laid its conclusions on the table of the Knesset, or has not returned the bill to the Knesset, or has not acted as provided in Rule 138 (b), as the case may be, the chairman of the committee shall inform the Speaker in writing of the reasons therefor, and he shall do so each time that a further six months have elapsed; the Speaker shall transmit a copy of the statement for the information of the House Committee; recess days shall not enter into the reckoning of the periods mentioned in this paragraph. Committee reports
- (b) For the purposes of paragraph (a), the day on which the Knesset has determined which committee shall consider a subject or bill shall be regarded as the date of its committal; where the determination which committee shall consider a subject or bill has been referred to the House Committee, the day on which the House Committee determines which shall be that committee shall be regarded as the date of committal of the subject or bill, and where the House Committee has resolved that the subject or bill be referred to a joint committee, the day on which the joint committee is formed shall be regarded as the said date of committal.
- (c) A Member of the Knesset who has initiated a Member's bill or who has made a motion for the agenda, and six months have passed since

these were referred to a committee of the Knesset, may, if the committee has not acted as provided in paragraph (a), apply to the House Committee and request its intervention.

- (d) The House Committee may set a further period for the said committee within which it should bring its deliberations to conclusion and to vote, and it may transfer the continuation of deliberation of the matter or of the bill to another committee together with setting a period as aforesaid.

CHAPTER SEVEN

PROCEEDINGS ON GOVERNMENT BILLS

Tabling

113. (a) A Government bill (in this chapter referred to as a bill) shall be presented to the Knesset by its submission to the Speaker.
- (b) The Speaker shall lay the bill on the table of the Knesset and place it on the agenda.
- (c) The debate on a bill shall be held only after it has lain on the table of the Knesset at least two days, if the House Committee has not resolved, at the request of the Government, to advance the debate.
- (d) So far as practicable, translations of bills shall be provided to the Arab Members of the Knesset within the period fixed in this rule.

Three readings

114. A bill shall be considered in three readings.

First reading

115. (a) The debate on first reading shall begin with words of explanation by the Minister or Deputy Minister, and his words shall be deemed to be a proposal to refer the bill to a committee.
- (b) If Members have registered to speak, the debate shall be held according to the provisions in Chapter Four unless there be a different provision in this chapter as regards the matter.
- (c) A Minister or Deputy Minister may sum up the debate with a reply.

116. (a) The first reading shall conclude with a vote for or against the reference of the bill to a committee of the Knesset.²⁷ Vote after first reading
- (b) If it has been proposed to return the bill to the Government, this proposal and the proposal to refer the bill to a committee shall be put to a vote, one against the other.
- (c) Should the Knesset decide not to refer the bill to a committee, or to return it to the Government, the bill shall return to the Government and be removed from the Knesset's agenda.
117. (a) When the Knesset has decided to refer a bill to a committee, and there are different proposals respecting the committee to which the bill shall be referred, or no particular committee has been proposed, the House Committee shall determine to which committee the bill shall be referred. Different proposals for reference to committee
- (b) When the House Committee has determined which committee the bill shall be referred to, the chairman of the House Committee shall make a due announcement from the rostrum of the Knesset.
118. (a) The committee shall deliberate the bill referred to it by the Knesset. Deliberation in committee
- (b) The Attorney General and his deputies and assistants, and the legal advisers of the ministries, shall be available to the committee and to every one of its members for any assistance required in drafting the law, the proposals and the reservations.
- (c) If the committee has arrived at the conclusion that it would be proper that attention to the bill

27 As a matter of practice, the House Committee, upon request of a Member, may decide to recommend to the Knesset to change its decision with regard to referral of a bill to a committee, and to refer it to another committee.

be transferred to another committee, the chairman of the committee shall bring the matter before the House Committee; if the House Committee finds that attention to the bill should be transferred - it shall decide which committee it shall be and bring its proposal to the approval of the Knesset.

Amend-
ments to
bill

119. The committee may propose amendments to the bill as it sees fit, provided that such amendments do not go beyond the scope of the bill's subject matter; if the bill is an amendment to an existing law, the committee may propose amendments that do not go beyond the scope of the bill's subject matter even if they concern sections of the law which are not mentioned in the bill.

Departure
from scope
of subject
matter

120. (a) Should a member of the committee, or the Government's representative, claim that an amendment proposed in the committee goes beyond the scope of the bill's subject matter, the chairman of the committee shall bring the question before the House Committee, and the chairman of the House Committee shall put the question down as the first item on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the House Committee; the decision of the House Committee shall be final.
- (b) Should such a claim be made by a Member of the Knesset who is not a member of the committee, the committee shall decide whether to bring the question before the House Committee.

Division of
a bill

121. A committee may at any time, on its initiative, propose that it be permitted by the Knesset to deliberate and report to the Knesset part of a bill that has been referred to it; such proposal shall be deemed to be a fresh first reading of the part of the bill.

Combination
and
division of
bills

122. A committee may at any time, on its initiative and with the approval of the House Committee -

- (1) combine two or more bills and bring them as one bill for second and third readings in the Knesset;

- (2) divide one bill into two or more bills and bring them at the same time as separate bills for second and third readings in the Knesset.
123. (a) When a committee has concluded its deliberations of a bill it shall report the bill to the Knesset for the second reading in the version which the committee has approved.²⁸ Tabling for second reading
- (b) Should the votes in the committee for two versions of one clause of a bill be equal, the committee shall bring both versions to a vote on the second reading.
- (c) The committee shall append to the bill a list of the reservations of the members of the committee, of other Members under Rule 104, and of the representatives of the Government; a reservation shall not negate the essence of the law.
- (d) The bill, with the reservations appended as aforesaid, shall be laid by the Speaker on the table of the house, and shall be placed by him on the agenda.
124. (a) The committee may renew its deliberations of the bill after it has been laid on the table of the Knesset, as long as the second reading has not begun. Renewed deliberation in committee upon its request
- (b) Should the committee decide to renew its deliberation of the bill, the Speaker shall give notice thereof in the Knesset, and the second reading shall be deferred until the bill is laid again on the table of the Knesset.
125. The second reading of the bill shall be held on the day after it is laid on the table of the Knesset, or on a later day, unless the House Committee has resolved to Time of second reading

²⁸ In view of the provision of Rule 123 (a), a Knesset committee has no authority to decide not to report a bill to the plenum for second and third readings (HCR - 15.1.79).

permit the second reading to be held on the day of the tabling.

Proceedings
on second
reading

126. (a) The proceedings on second reading shall begin with a statement on behalf of the committee by its chairman or by a member of the committee appointed by him for the purpose, or, in the absence of the chairman, by a member of the committee appointed by it for the purpose, and the statement on behalf of the committee shall be deemed to be a proposal for the adoption of the bill on second reading.
- (b) The Speaker shall put the clauses of the bill to a vote, one by one.
- (c) Consecutive clauses to which no reservations have been registered may be put to a single vote by the Speaker unless a Member has requested that each of the clauses, or any one of them, be put to a separate vote.
- (d) Where a reservation has been registered to a clause, the mover shall be given five minutes to explain the reservation.
- (e) The Speaker, with the consent of the mover and the chairman of the committee, may have the explanations of reservations to a number of clauses combined.
- (f) The chairman of the committee, or whoever has been appointed by him or by the committee for the purpose, shall reply to the movers of the reservations.
- (g) The right given to a member of the Government, to speak on its behalf at any stage of the debate, is given on second reading also to the Deputy Minister whose ministry is charged with the implementation of the proposed law.

127. (a) At any stage of the debate on second reading, the Knesset, upon a proposal of the Government or the chairman of the committee, may direct the committee to reconsider the entire bill or any question which the Knesset shall specify in its resolution. Reconsideration in committee upon request of Knesset
- (b) The committee shall consider the bill or question referred to it by the Knesset, and report to the Knesset with its proposals.
128. The Speaker shall first put the reservation to a vote; if the reservation is not adopted he shall put to a vote the committee text of the clause; if the reservation is adopted he shall put to a vote the clause in the wording of the reservation. Vote on second reading
129. When all clauses of the bill have been voted, the third reading shall be held forthwith. On the third reading the Knesset shall vote, without further debate, on the final text of the entire bill as adopted on the second reading, provided that on second reading no reservation has been adopted and there was no vote on different versions of a clause. Third reading
130. (a) When, on the second reading, a reservation has been adopted, or different versions of a clause have been put to a vote, the third reading shall be held in the week following the week in which the second reading was concluded; the committee, before the third reading, may insert in the bill the changes of text that follow from the reservation or version that has been adopted. Postponement of third reading
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), the representative of the Government, or the chairman of the committee in its behalf, may in special cases request that the third reading be held forthwith, or that it be postponed for a further week, and a statement shall be made accordingly in the Knesset.
131. For the debate on the State budget, and in other exceptional cases, the House Committee may fix special proceedings. Special proceedings

- Competence of Government to withdraw bill
132. (a) So long as the bill has not been passed on the third reading, the Government, at any stage of the debate in the committee or the plenum, may withdraw the entire bill, whether by statement in the Knesset, or by a statement, in writing, to the Speaker.
- (b) If the second reading has begun, a statement as aforesaid shall not be made until after the second reading has been interrupted upon a request by the Government; the duration of the interruption shall be not less than a week and not more than three weeks; recess days shall not enter into the reckoning.
- (c) When a statement has been submitted to the Speaker he shall inform the Knesset thereof.
- (d) Upon the statement being made in the Knesset, whether by the Government or by the Speaker, the bill shall be removed from the agenda of the Knesset.
- Right to bring withdrawn bill a second time
133. When the Government has withdrawn a bill, it may not, in the same parliamentary year, bring another bill on the same subject unless the House Committee has decided to permit doing so; however the Government may retract the withdrawal of the bill.

CHAPTER EIGHT

PROCEEDINGS ON MEMBERS' BILLS

- Submission of Members' bill²⁹
134. (a) Any Member of the Knesset may propose a bill.
- (b) A Member proposing a bill shall submit it to the Speaker, and the Speaker and the Deputy

29 A Knesset committee may initiate laws on the following subjects: Basic Laws and laws concerning the Knesset, elections to the Knesset, Members of the Knesset or the State Comptroller; such laws shall be submitted to the Knesset for first reading (HCR - 24.11.80).

Speakers, after they have approved the bill, shall lay it on the table of the Knesset.

- (c) The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall not approve a bill which, in their opinion, is racist in its substance or negates the existence of the State of Israel as the State of the Jewish people.
135. (a) Within the time set apart for the debate of motions for the agenda, or at some other time that shall be fixed by the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers in co-ordination with the Government, the preliminary debate on a bill shall be held as set out below, provided it is not held before two days have elapsed from the tabling of the bill in the Knesset, or later than forty-five days from the day of its submission to the Speaker, unless the House Committee has resolved to move the debate forward or has agreed to extend the said period.^{30 31} Preliminary debate
- (b) If no time has been fixed as provided in paragraph (a), the House Committee may, at the request of the proposing Member, and after hearing the Speaker or one of the Deputy Speakers and a representative of the Government, decide that the debate shall be held within fourteen days from the decision.
136. The order of bringing forward Members' bills for preliminary debate shall be fixed by the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers, taking into account the size of the party groups of which the proposers are members. Order of debates

30 A Member may raise his bill for preliminary debate even after the 45-day period (HCR - 18.2.85).

31 Where the initiators of a bill request postponement of its preliminary debate after it has already been included in the agenda, the Speaker may, unless he finds justification for the request of postponement, put off debate of the bill for a period of sixty days (HCR - 13.1.86).

Procedure
for
preliminary
debate

137. (a) The proposer, on the preliminary debate, shall explain the bill within the time limit of ten minutes.
- (b) Where the Government supports the proposal to refer the bill to a committee or does not take a stand on the proposal, a Member may propose that the bill be removed from the agenda and explain his proposal within the time-limit of ten minutes.
- (c) Where the Government, or a Member of the Knesset, has proposed that the bill be removed from the agenda, the proposer may reply within the time-limit of five minutes.
- (d) Upon conclusion of the debate the Knesset shall resolve whether to refer the bill to a committee or remove it from the agenda.

Postpone-
ment of
vote

- 137A. If the Government has requested to defer the vote on the bill and the proposing Member agrees, the Chairman of the sitting shall ask whether there is objection to the deferment, and any one of the Members may object to the deferment, without explanation; in case of such objection the Chairman shall put the matter of the deferment to a vote; if the Knesset decides in favour of deferment, the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers shall fix the time for the vote and notify the Members in advance thereof; there shall be no further debate on this subject in the Knesset before this vote.

Reference
to
committee

138. (a) When the Knesset has decided to refer a bill to a committee, the determination as to which committee shall be referred to shall be according to Rule 117.
- (b) The committee shall prepare the bill for the first reading or propose that the Knesset remove it from the agenda.

Legislation
requiring
budget

- 138A. (a) When preparing a bill for first reading the committee shall invite to its deliberations the Minister of Finance or his representative in order to clarify whether the provisions of section 39A of

the Budget Elements Law, 5745-1985, apply in regard to the bill.

- (b) If it becomes clear to the committee that implementation of a bill involves expenditure, or an undertaking for expenditure, from the State budget, or that its implementation involves a reduction in the State revenue, it shall specify, in the wording of the bill or in its explanatory notes, the mode of financing the expenditure or the reduction, as provided in section 32 of the said Law.
- (c) The committee shall set forth in detail, in the explanatory notes to the bill, the proposer's estimate regarding the bill's cost, the Treasury's estimate in writing if given, and the estimate of other bodies, as brought before it.

138B. (a) Upon having prepared a bill for first reading, the committee shall transmit it to the Secretary General for publication in the Official Gazette - Bills. Transmission
for
publication

- (b) If the provisions of Rule 138A (b) do not apply to the bill, the committee shall mention this fact in its message to the Secretary General provided for in paragraph (a).

138C. The Secretary General shall examine every bill as to whether the provisions of Rule 138A (b) and (c), or Rule 138B (b), have been carried out in regard to it, and if they have not - he shall return it to the committee for completion. Examination

139. (a) When the committee has prepared the bill for the first reading in the Knesset, the first reading shall be held on the bill as reported from the committee. First
reading

- (b) If the committee has recommended that the Knesset remove the bill from its agenda, and the Knesset has rejected the recommendation, the first reading shall be held on the bill as submitted by the proposer.

- (c) On the first reading the debate shall be opened and summed up by the proposer, or by another Member if the proposer has so requested.

Bills on
one subject

140. (a) When the Knesset has referred a number of bills on one subject to a committee, and the committee has prepared one bill for the first reading, it shall be deemed to be the bill of all proposers of the bills that were referred to the committee, and their names shall appear on the bill alphabetically.

- (b) The debate on the first reading shall be opened and summed up by one of the proposers, as agreed between the proposers, and in the absence of such agreement - by the chairman of the committee that prepared the bill for the first reading. Where the debate has been opened by the chairman of the committee the proposers shall have the right to speak at the beginning of the debate in the order in which they submitted their several bills.

Subsequent
deliberation

141. (a) Subsequent deliberation of the bill shall be as provided in Rules 116, and 118 to 130, *mutatis mutandis*.

- (b) If the Knesset has decided to refer the bill to committee, it shall be referred to the committee that prepared it for first reading; a Member may apply to the House Committee, whether before or after the decision of the Knesset to refer the bill to committee, requesting that it propose to the Knesset that it refer attention to the bill to another committee; his request shall come up for discussion in the next meeting of the House Committee, and if it is accepted - the proposal shall be transmitted for the approval of the Knesset at the first reading or afterwards, as the case may be.

Right of
Member to
withdraw
bill

142. (a) Until the committee's deliberation of the bill, which follows its first reading, is concluded, the proposer may withdraw the bill.

- (b) Should the proposer withdraw the bill, the chairman of the committee shall so inform the

Knesset, and the the bill shall thereupon be removed from the agenda of the Knesset.

143. (a) When the Knesset has resolved to remove a bill from the agenda under Rule 137 or Rule 139, or when a Member has withdrawn a bill under Rule 142, there shall not be tabled in the same session of the Knesset any new bill judged by the Speaker to be identical to, or essentially the same as, the removed or withdrawn bill, unless the Speaker should determine that in the meantime there has been a substantive change in the circumstances and should decide therefore to permit the tabling of the new bill in the same session. Identical
bill
- (b) When the Speaker has determined that a new bill is identical to, or essentially the same as, an earlier bill, and has not permitted the new bill to be laid on the table of the Knesset, all as provided in paragraph (a), the Member who has submitted the new bill may appeal within two weeks to the House Committee; the decision of the House Committee shall be final.
- (c) Should the House Committee decide, on an appeal under paragraph (b), that the bill is not identical to, or essentially the same as, the earlier bill, the bill shall be laid forthwith on the table of the Knesset, and the provisions of Rule 135 shall apply to the debate on it.
- (d) If the Speaker, or the House Committee in an appeal under paragraph (b), has permitted the tabling of the bill, the bill shall be laid forthwith on the table of the Knesset and the provisions of Rule 135 shall apply to the debate on it, except that the period of forty-five days stated in that rule shall be reckoned from the day on which the tabling was permitted.
- (e) If the Speaker has determined that a bill is identical to, or essentially the same as, an earlier bill, and has not permitted its tabling, and the proposer has not appealed, or has appealed and

his appeal was refused by the House Committee, the bill shall be laid on the table of the Knesset at the beginning of the next session, provided that preliminary debate of the bill shall not be held before six months have elapsed from the day on which the earlier bill was removed from the agenda or withdrawn by the proposer; recess days shall not enter into the reckoning of the aforesaid period of six months.

- Corresponding bills 144. If a committee has reported a Member's bill for the first reading, and a corresponding bill has been submitted by the Government, the debate on the first reading shall be opened by the two proposers in the order agreed between them, and where there is no agreement, in the order fixed by the Speaker.
- Member's bill and Government bill 145. During the debate on the first reading of a bill on behalf of the Government a Member may not submit a bill to replace that of the Government; this provision does not affect the right to submit reservations in the committee if the Government's bill has been referred to the committee.
- Publication 146. (a) A Member's bill shall be published in the Knesset Record as an appendix to the sitting in which the bill came up for preliminary debate.
- (b) A Member's bill which been prepared by a committee for the first reading shall be published in the Official Gazette - Bills, marked with the proposer's name.

PART C

INTERPRETATION
OF RULES - PRECEDENTS

147. A question concerning debates of the Knesset, for which there is no provision in the Rules, shall be resolved by the House Committee, and its resolution shall be a binding precedent so long as the Knesset has not amended the Rules in regard to the matter. Establishing precedents
148. The Knesset shall not debate any matter in a manner which deviates from the Rules or the precedents unless the House Committee has deliberated and so decided. Deviation from rules or precedents
149. (a) Should doubt arise, during a debate in the Knesset, about the interpretation of any provision in the Rules or precedents, the Chairman of the sitting shall decide the question, and his decision at that sitting shall be binding. Interpretation of rules and precedents
- (b) Within fifteen days from the sitting a Member may appeal from the interpretation made by the Chairman of the sitting, before an Interpretations Committee consisting of the Speaker and eight Members to be chosen by the House Committee.
- (c) The decision of the Interpretations Committee shall be final.

PART D

AMENDMENT OF RULES

- Motion to amend rules 150. (a) Any Member may propose an amendment to the Rules.
- (b) The proposal shall be submitted to the chairman of the House Committee; the House Committee shall decide whether to submit it to the Knesset or remove it from its agenda.
- (c) When a proposal for an amendment has been submitted by a Member who is not a member of the House Committee, the Member may participate, without the right to vote, in the Committee's deliberations on his amendment.
- Right to submit objections 151. When the House Committee has resolved to submit a proposed amendment to the Knesset, the proposal shall be laid on the table of the Knesset, and any Member may, within fourteen days from the day when notice of the tabling was given in the Knesset, submit in writing to the chairman of the House Committee an objection to the proposed amendment.
- Proceedings in absence of objections 152. If no objections under Rule 151 have been submitted, the chairman of the House Committee shall so give notice in the Knesset, and the Knesset shall vote, without debate, whether to adopt the amendment.
- Proceedings if objections submitted 153. (a) If objections under Rule 151 have been submitted, the House Committee shall deliberate them.
- (b) When an objection has been submitted by a Member who is not a member of the House Committee, the Member may participate, without the right to vote, in the Committee's deliberations on his objection.
- (c) When the House Committee has concluded its deliberation of the objections, the proposed amendment shall be laid on the table of the Knesset in the version adopted by the

Committee, with the objections not adopted appended to it; should the votes in the Committee for each of two versions be equal, both versions shall be laid on the table of the Knesset.

- (d) Each objector shall receive permission to speak for five minutes in the Knesset to explain his objection; the chairman of the House Committee, or a member of the Committee appointed by him for the purpose, shall reply to the objector, and the Knesset shall vote on the objection.
- (e) Upon the conclusion of the voting on the objections and on the various versions the Knesset shall vote, without further debate, whether to adopt the amendment in the final version.

- 154. An amendment to the Rules comes into effect upon its approval by the Knesset. Coming into effect
- 155. An amendment to the Rules shall be published in the Knesset Record as an appendix to the sitting in which it was adopted, and the Speaker shall publish it in the Official Gazette. Publication

QUESTIONS

(House Committee Resolution of April 8 1992)

Direct Questions

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---|
| Submission
of a
question | 1. | <p>(a) A Member of the Knesset may address a direct question to a Minister on a factual matter which is within the range of that Minister's duties. If it is not clear to the questioner who is the Minister within whose range of duties the subject matter of the question lies, he shall address the direct question to the Prime Minister in order to have it transmitted to the Minister concerned. Questions shall not be addressed to more than one Minister on the same subject.</p> <p>(b) The direct question shall be worded in brief in the form of a question, in three copies, shall be signed by the questioner and be submitted to the Secretariat of the Knesset.</p> <p>(c) A direct question shall not contain -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) any argument, judgement, or offensive epithet or expression; (2) a request for an opinion or for a solution of an abstract question of law or for an answer to a hypothetical proposition; (3) any offence to the dignity of the Knesset or to accepted morals. |
| Period for
answer to a
question | 2. | <p>(a) The Minister's answer to the direct question shall be handed to the Member within 21 days of receiving it; a copy of the answer shall be handed to the Speaker.</p> <p>(b) If the Minister is unable to answer the question within 21 days of receiving it, he shall inform the Speaker and the questioner in writing, before the 21 days elapse, of the reason for the delay and of the</p> |

time when he will give the answer, provided that such time does not extend beyond a further 14 days.

3. The Minister questioned may refuse to answer the direct question if, in his opinion, the answer may be harmful to the affairs of the State. He shall note in a written answer that the refusal is due to this consideration. Refusal to give answer

4. (a) If the Minister finds that the direct question is worded contrary to the provisions of section 1 (c) above, he may refuse to answer the direct question and in his reply to the questioner he shall note his reasons for the refusal. Refusal due to wording

- (b) A questioner to whose direct question the Minister concerned has refused to answer in reliance upon section 4 (a) above, may appeal thereupon to the Speaker, and the decision of the Speaker on this matter shall be final.

5. (a) If the questioning Member has not received an answer to a direct question within the time prescribed by section 2 above, he shall address a request to the Speaker to act upon the direct question as if it were a regular question. Conversion to regular question

- (b) The Speaker shall inform the Minister concerned as to the time at which the question will be read out in the Knesset plenum.

Oral Questions

6. (a) A Member of the Knesset may address an oral question to a Minister on a factual matter which is within the range of that Minister's duties; if it is not clear to the questioner who is the Minister within whose range of duties the subject matter of the question lies, he shall address the question to the Prime Minister in order to have it transmitted to the Minister concerned. Questions shall not be addressed to more than one Minister on the same subject. Submission of question

- (b) The oral question shall be worded in writing in the form of a question, be signed by the questioner and be submitted to the Speaker in three copies.
- (c) An oral question shall not contain -
 - (1) any name or disclosure whose publication is not necessary for the understanding of the question;
 - (2) any argument, judgement, or offensive epithet or expression;
 - (3) a request for an opinion or for a solution of an abstract question of law or for an answer to a hypothetical proposition;
 - (4) any offence to the dignity of the Knesset or to accepted morals.

Time of
answer

- 7. (a) Answers to oral questions shall be given in regular sittings of the Knesset on every Wednesday, at the beginning of the sitting (hereinafter referred to as question time). If the Government has decided to present a statement to the Knesset on such a day, or a budget bill, or if a motion of no-confidence has been submitted and is to be debated on such a day - the answers to oral questions shall be postponed to some other time which the Speaker shall fix.
- (b) An oral question submitted to the Speaker by Monday at 12 noon and transmitted to the Minister questioned on the same day by the Speaker, shall be answered by the Minister on Wednesday of the same week unless he has notified the Speaker that he is unable to do so, for reasons satisfactory to the Speaker. The Speaker may, at his discretion and in special cases, transmit a question to a Minister even if it has been handed to him by Tuesday at 12 noon.
- (c) A Minister may be represented in answering by his Deputy or another Minister.

8. (a) At question time every week no more than seven questions shall be raised, provided that the period of time devoted thereto shall not exceed an hour and a half; at the end of such period the Chairman shall stop discussion of oral questions even if only part of them have been answered. Quota of questions
- (b) Every Member of the Knesset shall have an equal quota of oral questions during each parliamentary year. The Speaker shall determine which oral questions shall be raised at oral question time and in what order.
- (c) Two oral questions on the same subject shall not be raised at question time.
9. The Speaker shall publish on the members' Bulletin Board, every Wednesday during the morning, the oral questions which will be raised on that day. The text of the questions shall be laid on the table of the Knesset on the same day. Advance notice
10. (a) The Speaker shall rule out any oral question which is contrary to the Rules, to the precedents or to this Resolution. Inadmissible questions
- (b) No oral question shall be published until after having been raised in the Knesset.
- (c) An oral question published before being raised in the Knesset shall be automatically ruled out.
- (d) No oral question shall be accepted on a subject raised in a question no more than four weeks previously.
- (e) When the Speaker has ruled out an oral question he shall so inform the questioner in writing, giving the reasons.
11. The Minister questioned may refuse to answer an oral question if, in his opinion, the answer in public may be harmful to the affairs of the State. He shall note in a written answer that his refusal is due to this consideration. Harm to state affairs

12. (a) Oral questions transmitted to the Ministers shall be marked by the Speaker with numbers in the order of their approval.
- (b) The Speaker shall call out the number of the oral question and the name of the Member who has put the oral question reached on the agenda.
- (c) If the questioner is not present in the hall he shall be considered to have waived the question.
- (d) The Member shall read out the text of the question as approved by the Speaker, at a length of at most forty words.
- (e) The answer of the Minister shall be given from the Government table, and shall keep within a time limit of three minutes. All the restrictions prescribed in Rule 39 of the Rules of Procedure shall apply to the Minister's answer.
- (f) The questioning Member, after having heard the Minister's answer, may react from the hall within a time limit of two minutes.
- (g) After the questioning Member has spoken the Chairman may enable each of two other Members to put a short additional question within a time limit of one minute. As far as possible, one of them shall be of the party groups supporting the Government and one shall be of the party groups opposing the Government.
- (h) After the reaction of the questioner under paragraph (f) above, and after presentation of the questions under paragraph (g) above, the Minister concerned shall answer within a time limit of two more minutes.
- (i) The restrictions prescribed in this Resolution shall apply to the additional questions.
- (j) The Minister questioned may refuse to answer an additional question for the reason mentioned in section 6 above, or postpone his answer to the

additional question to a later stage of the sitting or to one of the following sittings.

- (k) The Chairman shall interrupt the questioner or the Minister if the question or the answer oversteps the provisions of this Resolution.
- (l) If the questioner or the Minister oversteps the time allotted to him - the Chairman shall interrupt him.
- (m) If the questioner does not follow the instruction of the Chairman, the Chairman shall instruct the Minister not to answer the question or the additional question.
13. No interjections may be made during question time. Prohibition of interjections
14. Questions in accordance with this Resolution shall be termed oral questions. Short name
15. This Resolution shall have effect during the period of office of the 13th Knesset. Effect
16. As long as this Resolution remains in effect the provisions of Rules 38 to 45 shall continue to have effect, provided that every member may submit no more than 18 questions in every winter session and 12 questions in every summer session. This quota cannot be transferred to any other Member. Questions

(นายทิวร สุ่มหิรัญ)
 ผู้ช่วยเลขาธิการสภาผู้แทนราษฎร

