



सभापति, राज्य सभा
संसद भवन, नई दिल्ली
CHAIRMAN,
RAJYA SABHA
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
NEW DELHI

FOREWORD

A legislative body functions in accordance with its rules, procedures, customs and conventions. While the Constitution lays down broad rules of functioning of the two Houses of Parliament, each of them, over the years, has evolved its own set of rules and procedures, customs and conventions for smooth transaction of its business. The process of evolution saw not only adaption of old rules, modification where needed but also addition of new rules and procedures based on our own experiences and innovations. My illustrious predecessors have immensely contributed in this process of evolution by shaping and nurturing the rules and procedures of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha. The process of strengthening of this body of rules and procedures continues and I had the good fortune to carry this legacy forward by effecting certain procedural changes for more effective management of scarce time of the House and enhancing its legislative productivity.

The success of any legislative body greatly hinges on efficiency, competence, expertise and dedication of its members. With the live telecast of the proceedings of Parliament and the proliferation and pervasiveness of social media, the performance of members inside and outside the House is under constant scrutiny and evaluation. It has, therefore, become increasingly necessary for every member to acquire necessary skills needed to become an effective parliamentarian. Comprehensive understanding of the Constitution and the rules of procedure coupled with intelligent use of the available parliamentary devices are *sine qua non* for being an effective parliamentarian. Well informed members empowered by rules of procedure can significantly contribute to the functioning of the House as they optimally use their allotted time to put forth their view points. Lack of knowledge of the procedural nuances limits the ability of the members to maintain optimal productivity.

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The rules of procedure of Rajya Sabha, its customs, conventions and practices have been brought out by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in a series of its publications. An arduous, pioneering and laudable attempt was made in 1996 to bring out for the first time a comprehensive publication titled 'Rajya Sabha at Work' which detailed various aspects of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha and its Committees in a comprehensive manner. This publication is revised every ten years.

I am happy that the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha has taken this initiative to bring out the revised edition of this publication. This volume has been carefully and comprehensively updated and changes made in the rules, procedures, customs and conventions since the last edition have been incorporated. It is an invaluable work of reference for Members of Parliament and endeavours to enhance their understanding of fine nuances of parliamentary rules, procedures, practices and conventions. For the Chair, it remains an important and authentic source of information concerning the functioning of the House.

I extend my appreciation to all those who have been involved in revising and updating this authoritative work on Rajya Sabha. I am sure that besides being useful for the Members of Parliament, this publication will enrich the corpus on parliamentary literature and will be of interest to those interested in studying the functioning of our parliamentary system.

NEW DELHI
31 October, 2016



(M. HAMID ANSARI)