



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Procedure Committee

Inquiry into the rules for Questions

That the Procedure Committee inquire into and report on the following proposed variations to the rules for Questions:

- (a) the provision of an opportunity, at the conclusion of each Question Time, to move a take note debate on the answers given to oral questions asked that day and any answers to written questions received since the last sitting of the House,
- (b) varying the time for the commencement of Questions,
- (c) requiring that an answer be directly relevant to a question.

Mr Buckingham moved, according to notice, as by leave amended: That the following proposed variations to the rules for questions be referred to the Procedure Committee for inquiry and report:

1. That, for the duration of the current session and unless otherwise ordered:
 1. Immediately following the conclusion of Questions, a motion may be moved without notice: "That the House take note of answers given to questions this day".
 2. Debate on the motion may canvass any answers to oral questions asked that day and any answers to written questions received since the last sitting of the House.
 3. Debate on the motion shall not exceed 30 minutes in total.
 4. A member may speak for not more than 5 minutes to the motion, and the mover is not entitled to a right of reply.
 5. If the question has not been earlier disposed of, at 5 minutes before the expiration of 30 minutes, debate will be interrupted to allow a minister to speak for not more than 5 minutes.

6. Where a motion moved under this sessional order will conflict with another sessional order affording certain business precedence, the motion for the take note of answers will take precedence.
2. That, for the duration of the current session and unless otherwise ordered:
 - (a) paragraph (1) of the sessional order nominating the time for Questions be amended by omitting “2.30 pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday” and inserting instead “12.00 pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday”,
 - (b) the sessional order for the precedence of business be amended by omitting paragraph (2) and inserting instead:

“2. General business is to take precedence until 4.00 pm on Thursday each week”,
and
 - (c) paragraph (1) of the sessional order for the motion for the adjournment be amended by omitting “and half an hour after the conclusion of Questions on Thursday and at the conclusion of Questions on Friday” and inserting instead “at 4.00 pm on Thursday and at 3.30 pm on Friday”.
3. That, for the duration of the current session and unless otherwise ordered, standing order 65(5) be varied to read as follows:

“(5) An answer must be directly relevant to a question.”

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

Reference from the House to inquire into items (a) to (c):14 September 2016, Minutes No. 73, item 13, pp1126-1127.