

What is Rule 267 of Rajya Sabha?

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In news– During the winter session of Parliament, opposition parties are demanding Chairperson of Rajya Sabha(RS) to allow a discussion on the latest situation in India-China border by applying Rule 267.

About rule 267 of RS-

- The Rule **gives special power to a Rajya Sabha member to suspend the pre-decided agenda of the House**, with the approval of the Chairman.
- The Rajya Sabha Rule Book says, **“Any member, may, with the consent of the Chairman, move that any rule may be suspended in its application to a motion related to the business listed before the Council of that day** and if the motion is carried, the rule in question shall be suspended for the time being: provided further that this rule shall not apply where specific provision already exists for suspension of a rule under a particular chapter of the Rules”.
- **Any discussion under Rule 267 assumes great significance in Parliament simply because all other business would be put on hold to discuss the issue of national importance.**
- **No other form of discussion entails suspension of other business.** If an issue is admitted under Rule 267, it signifies it's the most important national issue of the day.
- Also, **the government will have to respond to the matter** by replying during the discussions under Rule 267.

Other ways to raise important issues in the House-

- **In Parliament, a member has a number of ways to flag issues and seek the government's reply.** An MP can ask

questions related to any issue during the Question Hour in which the concerned minister has to provide oral or written answers.

- **An MP can raise the issue during Zero Hour.** Every day, 15 MPs are allowed to raise issues of their choice in the Zero Hour.
- **An MP can even raise it during Special Mention.** A Chairman can allow up to 7 Special Mentions daily.
- **Otherwise, the MP can try to bring the issue to the government's notice during other discussions such as the debate on the President's speech.**
- Opposition leaders have also used the Budget debate to attack the government politically.