Sub: Answers to Assembly Questions - transfer between departments.

There are times when a question is in more than one part and different parts relate to different departments. There is a tendency to toss these about either between departments or back to the Assembly Secretariat.

This is totally undesirable.

The practice that should be followed in this regard is that the department to which part (a) of the question relates has to field and answer the question quite irrespective of whether this part constitutes only an insignificant portion of the answer. The department to which part (a) of the question relates will have to obtain the information to the other parts of the question from the other departments concerned.

No question should be transferred from one department to another department without the approval of the Chief Secretary and in no case shall it be returned to the Assembly Secretariat.

In case, there is any doubt on about to which department does part (a) of the question relate that should also be referred to the Chief Secretary.

No attempt should be made to transfer a question once it has been listed for answer on a particular date.

The correct time to resolve such dispute is for the Secretary concerned to apply his/her mind at the time notice of the question is initially received in the department and not after it is listed for reply.

These instructions shall be followed scrupulously beginning with the forthcoming session of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

This may please be brought to the notice of all Deputy Secretaries/Assistant Secretaries/Section Officers etc.

(R.K. Nair)
Chief Secretary

Copy forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

1. SA/PS to All Ministers/State Ministers, Rajasthan, Jaipur.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Chief Minister’s Office, Secretariat, Jaipur
3. All Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/SCM/ Special Secretaries to Government, Rajasthan, Jaipur.
4. Secretary, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Jaipur.