



Integrated System on  
Microphone Management,  
Simultaneous Interpretation  
and Automatic Vote Recording  
in Lok Sabha Chamber

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Lok Sabha Secretariat  
New Delhi

# Integrated System on Microphone Management, Simultaneous Interpretation and Automatic Vote Recording in Lok Sabha Chamber

A new Computer—controlled system comprising three sub-systems, viz. Microphone Management System, Simultaneous Interpretation System and Automatic Vote Recording System in Lok Sabha Chamber was introduced with effect from the Fifteenth Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. The main features of the system are as follows:—

## Microphone Management System

Each Member has been provided with an individual gooseneck microphone and a request to speak switch set fixed at her/his desk or railing (Fig-2). The microphone has a Light Emitting Diode (LED) which lights up RED whenever the mike (MIC) is activated. The switch consist of a microphone request to speak switch (*Grey in colour*) with LED ring around the push button as illustrated in Fig-1.



*Push-Button Set*

A (Fig. 1)

The MIC request system is linked to Division/ seat numbers allotted to Members. It is, therefore, desirable that each Member should be occupying only the seat allotted to her/him while she/he intends to speak. When Member intends to speak she/he may try to catch the eye of the Speaker by raising her/his hand and at the same time she/he should press the request to speak switch (Grey in colour). As soon as the request switch is pressed, LED lights up GREEN, the MIC as such will not be activated at this stage. The mike will be activated from the control room only when the Member has

been permitted by the Speaker to speak and the indication to that effect would be known in two ways. *The LED ring on the request to speak switch will glow RED and at the same time the LED provided at the top of the microphone (Fig-2) will also light up "RED"*. Thereafter, the Member can speak.



*Push-Button Set with Microphone*  
B (Fig. 2)

### Simultaneous Interpretation Service

Simultaneous interpretation is done in the Lok Sabha by specially trained Parliamentary Interpreters. The uniqueness of this job lies in the instant transference of a speech and its simultaneous delivery in another language.

A two-channel system for interpretation from Hindi to English and *vice-versa* was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 7 September 1964. Subsequently, it was decided to extend the facility of simultaneous interpretation for other languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Thus, in November 1969, this facility was introduced for some other languages. At present, it is available for the following languages:

- Assamese
- Bengali
- Gujarati
- Maithili
- Malayalam
- Kannada
- Marathi
- Nepali
- Manipuri
- Sanskrit
- Punjabi
- Odia
- Telugu
- Urdu
- Tamil

Speeches made in these languages are simultaneously interpreted into English and Hindi. Members who wish to speak in any of these languages are required (under Direction 115B issued by the Speaker) to give at least half-an-hour notice to the 'Table' before they speak. However, the facility of simultaneous interpretation of speeches from English and Hindi into these regional languages is yet to be introduced.

Simultaneous interpretation has become an indispensable service of the House under Article 120 of the Constitution read with Direction 115B of the Directions by the Speaker. This facility is also available in the sittings of Parliamentary Committees and also during various parliamentary functions held in the Central Hall.

The main features of the Simultaneous Interpretation System under the new Computer-controlled Integrated System in the Lok Sabha Chamber are as follows:—



*Language Selector Switch Assembly*

C (Fig. 3)

The language selector switch assembly (Fig-3) is a compact single user audio channel selector for listening by headphone. It provides choice to listen to the desired language *i.e.* Hindi or English or the floor channels and it consists of four sections:—

#### **1. Language selector switch:**

- Two push buttons (up/down) for channel selection.

- The push button may be selected to position (O) for hearing the Floor language.
- The push button is selected to position 1 for hearing the Hindi Version.
- Similarly the push button can be set at position 2 for English Version.

## 2. Volume Control Knob:

- The volume push button may be pushed up for increasing the volume and down for decreasing the volume.

**3. Headphone Socket:** The one-pin plug at the end of the wire of the earphone may be inserted into the socket.

**4. Vote Initiation Switch:** Although the vote initiation switch is provided on language selector switch assembly itself, it is required for voting purpose only.

The volume control switch is built in "silent" function, *i.e.* no audio output until one of the keys within push button has been pressed, to eliminate audible noise from the headphone when not in use and the headphone placed in the hook fixed in front of the seat, in case of seat with desks.

## Some General Hints

- In order to disconnect the earphone, the plug may be pulled out of the socket by holding the plug firmly.
- If a Member is to pass through a seat occupied by another member the plug may be pulled from the socket to facilitate her/his passage.
- As frequent pressing can spoil the volume push button, it may be adjusted at a suitable position.
- Ordinarily the language selector push button once adjusted for one language need not be touched again as the floor language can be heard over the loudspeaker.

## Automatic Vote Recording System

This system can be used for:

- (i) *Open Voting*: Wherein the names of Members who vote for or against a question or abstain in the voting are recorded.
- (ii) *Secret Voting*: Wherein only the final number of votes for or against a question or 'abstention' is recorded without revealing the names of Members and the nature of vote cast by them; and
- (iii) *Quorum*: For automatic counting of Members present in the Chamber.

## Push-Button Set for Members

A push-button set containing Light Emitting Diode (LED) and four push buttons—a *green* button for 'AYES', a *red* button for 'NOES', a *yellow* button for 'ABSTAIN' and *white* button for 'PRESENT'—together with a Vote Initiation Switch mounted on the Language Selector Switch Assembly has been provided on the seat of each Member as illustrated in Fig. 1.

In the case of seats with desks, the push-button set is fixed on the top of the desk. In the case of seats without desks the push-button set is fixed on the railing of the seat in front of the Member.

## Recording of Votes

A Division requested for by a Member is announced within the Parliament House, Parliament Library Building and Parliament House Annexe by ringing the Division Bells for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. Thereafter, the entrances to the Chamber are closed and Members are not admitted. The Speaker puts the question. If the opinion of the Chair as to the decision is challenged, the Chair directs that a Division be held and the votes be recorded.

A touch screen for operating the Automatic Vote Recording System has been installed at the Secretary-General's Table in the Chamber. On the direction of the Speaker, the Secretary-General initiates the voting process.

With the initiation of the system by the Secretary-General on his table, an audio-alarm sounds which is now LED on the push-button set of each Member glows, thus giving a signal to Members for casting their votes.

For casting a vote, each Member in the House has to press the Vote Initiation Switch and at the same time operate one of the three push buttons, *viz.* *green* for 'AYES' or *red* for 'NOES' or *yellow* for 'ABSTAIN' according to her/his choice. Both the Vote Initiation Switch and one of the push buttons (as per choice) must be kept pressed simultaneously till the audio-alarm sounds for the second time after 10 seconds.

The passage of the time of 10 seconds is also depicted in a descending order (*i.e.* count down) from 10, 9, 8 and so on upto 0 on the Total Result Display Screens.

In case of any error in voting, a Member can correct it by pressing the desired push button simultaneously with the Vote Initiation Switch, before the second audio-alarm is sounded.

The LED corresponding to the vote cast on the push-button-set of a Member's seat will glow simultaneously with the pressing of the button. The glowing of this LED will indicate that the vote is being recorded by the system.

There are two Total Result Display Screens installed on the pillars in the Galleries of the Chamber. In addition, there are two Individual Result Display Screens (on the left and right sides of the Speaker's seat in the Chamber). For each seat in the Chamber, there is a corresponding set of LEDs fixed on these Panels which have been numbered according to their seat numbers. When a Member presses the 'AYES' button, the LED glows in *green* colour forming the letter 'A'; on pressing 'NOES' button, the LED glows in *red* colour forming the letter 'N'; on pressing the 'ABSTAIN' button, the LED glows in *yellow* colour.

### **Result of Voting**

Immediately after the sounding of the second audio alarm, the System starts totalling up the affirmative and negative votes, besides abstentions, and the total number of 'AYES', 'NOES' and 'ABSTAIN' are flashed on the Total Result Display Screens. It also indicates the total number of Members who have exercised their vote.

As soon as the result is flashed a print-out of the voting result is taken for permanent record.

## Secret Voting

Secret Voting, if any, is on similar lines except that the individual result will not be displayed in Individual Result Display Screens.

## Quorum

For ascertaining Quorum, Members have to press simultaneously the Vote Initiation Switch and the *white* colour push-button marked 'P'.

## General

Each Member has been assigned a fixed seat and at the time of voting she/he is required to occupy that particular seat. Otherwise the print-out of the Voting Result will not reflect the correct position.

### IMPORTANT STEPS



Before Division, every member occupies her/his own seat.

AYES	<input type="text"/>
NOES	<input type="text"/>
ABST	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL	<input type="text"/>
TIME	: 04

Actual Division starts with an audio-alarm and the time is displayed on the Total Result Display Board in descending order, *i.e.* 10, 9, 8, ...0.



A Member then presses the Vote Initiation Switch on the Language Selector Switch Assembly and one button on the Push Button Set simultaneously.

She/he keeps both the switch and button pressed until the audio-alarm sounds again.

AYES	279
NOES	105
ABST	012
TOTAL	394
TIME	:

The result of the Division then appears on the Total Result Display Board.





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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
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*\*Cover Photo: A view of Parliament House*