



# Secret Sitting of the Parliament

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**Why is in news?** Opposition reminds govt. of Nehru's stand during 1962 war - The then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, had rejected outrightly the idea of holding a secret session at that time

**Secret Sitting – Article 248** - (1) On a request made by the Leader of the House, the Speaker shall fix a day or part thereof for sitting of the House in secret.

(2) When the House sits in secret **no stranger shall be permitted** to be present in the Chamber, Lobby or Galleries: Provided that **members of the Council** may be present in their Gallery: Provided further that **persons authorised by the Speaker** may be present in the Chamber, Lobby or Galleries.

**Report of the proceeding – Article 249** - The Speaker may cause a report of the proceedings of a secret sitting to be issued in such manner as the Speaker thinks fit, but **no other person present shall keep a note or record of any proceedings or decisions of a secret sitting**, whether in part or full, or issue any report of, or purport to describe, such proceedings.

**Procedure in other respects – Article 250** - The **procedure in all other respects** in connection with a secret sitting shall be in accordance with such **directions as the Speaker may give**.

**Lifting of ban on publication of proceedings – Article 251** - (1) When it is considered that the necessity for maintaining secrecy in regard to the proceedings of a secret sitting has **ceased to exist and subject to the consent of the Speaker**, the Leader of the House or any member so authorized **may move a motion** that the proceedings in the House during a secret sitting be **no longer treated as secret**.

(2) On adoption by the House of the motion under sub-rule (1), the Secretary-General shall cause to be prepared a report of the proceedings of the secret sitting, and shall, as soon as practicable, publish it in such form and manner as the Speaker may direct.

**Disclosure of proceedings or decisions – Article 252** - Subject to the provisions of rule 251, disclosure of proceedings or decisions of a secret sitting by any person in any manner shall be treated as a **gross breach of privilege** of the House.