Mrs. E. Pappulakshmi, M.com., M.Phil., SET., Assistant Professor, PG & Research Department of Commerce, Cardamom Planters' Association College, Bodinayakanur.

### **Introduction to Member Rights and Liabilities**

#### • Definition of Members:

- Individuals or entities holding shares in a company are called members or shareholders.
- Role in Company Law:
  - Members have both rights and responsibilities, governed by company law and the company's constitution.

#### • Importance:

• Understanding rights and liabilities helps members engage effectively and responsibly in company affairs.

# **Key Rights of Members**

- Right to Participate:
  - Attend and vote at general meetings.
- Right to Dividend:
  - Entitled to receive dividends declared by the company.
- Right to Transfer Shares:
  - Transfer shares based on the rules outlined in the company's Articles of Association.
- Right to Information:
  - Access to certain company documents, including financial statements.



## **Voting Rights of Members**



- Types of Voting Rights:
  - Ordinary Voting: One share usually equals one vote.
  - **Special Voting**: Certain decisions require a higher vote threshold.

#### • Importance of Voting:

• Members influence major company decisions, such as mergers and changes in capital structure.

### • Proxy Voting:

• Members can appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf.

### **Remedies and Protections for Members**

- Minority Rights Protection:
  - Laws protect minority members from being unfairly treated.
- Right to Sue:
  - Members can take legal action if their rights are violated or if there's mismanagement.

#### • Inspection Rights:

• Members can inspect certain documents and demand transparency in operations.

### **Liabilities of Members**

### • Limited Liability:

- Liability is generally limited to the amount unpaid on shares held by the member.
- Personal Guarantee (if applicable):
  - In certain cases, members may need to provide a personal guarantee, especially in a private company.
- No Liability Beyond Shares:
  - Members are not responsible for the company's debts beyond their investment in shares, unless otherwise stated.



## Legal Liabilities in Specific Cases

- Compliance with Company Law:
  - Members must follow company law and the company's governing documents.
- Penalties for Misconduct:
  - Misuse of power or insider trading can lead to legal action.
- Financial Liabilities:
  - Liable to pay any outstanding calls on shares as per company law and agreement.

