

## RAJYA SABHA

### **STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 220<sup>TH</sup> SESSION [26-07-2010 TO 31-08-2010]**

1. The 220<sup>th</sup> Session (Monsoon Session) commenced on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. The Session was scheduled to adjourn on the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 but comes to an end today, the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2010 as the sittings of the House were extended by two days.
2. The Session had 26 sittings in all and the House sat for about 120 hours. During the Session, more than 35 hours were lost on issues like (a) unprecedented price rise, (b) diversion of funds earmarked for SC/STs for the Commonwealth Games, (c) remarks of a Cabinet Minister in a rally at Lalgarh, West Bengal, (d) Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute, (e) deaths of farmers agitating against land acquisition for Yamuna Expressway in police firing in Mathura and Aligarh (UP), (f) illegal mining in Karnataka, (g) reported deal between the Congress and BJP for smooth passage of the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill in return for giving clean chit to Shri Narendra Modi, CM, Gujarat in Sohrabuddin fake encounter Case, (h) reported threat to members of a minority community for conversion in J&K, (i) saffron terrorism and (j) functioning of the CBI. The House, however, made up this loss by skipping lunch recess and sitting late for about 30 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. 59 new Members elected/re-elected in the bye/biennial elections from different States joined the House during the Session and they were welcomed. 26 Members made their maiden speech during the Session.
4. During the Session, the House condoled the death of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Vice-President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Virendra Bhatia, sitting Member and 3 former Members of the Rajya Sabha. The House adjourned on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Shri Virendra Bhatia.
5. References to the victims of (a) Air India Plane Crash in Mangalore; (b) Collision of Jnaneshwari Express with a Goods Train near Kharagpur; Collision of Uttar Banga Express with Vananchal Express at Sainthia, West Bengal (c) Maoist attacks in Dantewada and Narayanpur Districts in Chattisgarh (d) unprecedented cloudburst in Leh town and its surrounding villages in Ladakh were made by the Chair.
6. There were 9 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) recent revision in prices of sensitive petroleum products (b) situation in Jammu & Kashmir (c) environmental implications of the oil spill off Mumbai Coast (d) situation caused by cloudburst in Leh (J&K) (e) setting up of a Commission of Inquiry on Illegal Mining (f) alleged diversion of funds meant for the welfare of SC/STs to Commonwealth Games Projects by Government of NCT of Delhi (g) India's offer of assistance of 25 million US Dollars to Pakistan for flood relief (h) signing of protocol between the Republic of India and Swiss Federal Council to amend the existing Agreement for avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income with protocol and (i) participation of Minister of Railways in a rally in West Bengal. These statements provided opportunities to Members to seek further clarifications. 38 statements

were made/laid in pursuance of the Direction of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, dated 24-9-2004 on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.

7. The issue regarding "inflationary pressure on the economy and its adverse impact on the common man" was discussed at length in the form of a Motion in the House. The Leader of the Opposition initiated the discussion and 23 other Members participated in the debate. The Minister of Finance also intervened at the end of the discussion and the Leader of the Opposition replied to the debate, which spread over for 7 hours and 49 minutes.
8. Thereafter, a Resolution urging upon the Government to take further effective action to contain the adverse impact of inflationary pressure on the common man, placed by the Chair before the House was also agreed.
9. About 72 matters were raised with the permission during the Session. There were about 153 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session.
10. 8 Government Bills were introduced including the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry (Amendment) Bill, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Amendment Bill, the Nalanda University Bill, the Anti-Hijacking (Amendment) Bill, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, the Architects (Amendment) Bill and the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill. One Government Bill, *namely* the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was withdrawn and 24 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The Clinical Establishment (Registration & Regulation) Bill, the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, the Securities & Insurance Laws (Amendment & Validation) Bill, the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Amendment Bill, the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill, the Appropriation (General, Railways & Jharkhand) Bills, the Nalanda University Bill, the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, the Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill, the Land Ports Authority of India Bill, the Jharkhand Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill and the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session. Two Bills *namely* the Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and the Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 were also referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.
11. A Statutory Resolution seeking approval of the Proclamation issued by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Jharkhand was adopted.
12. The following 7 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session:-
  - a. Serious safety problems faced by airline industry in the country in the context of Mangalore air craft crash;

- b. Sale of vegetables and fruits injected with chemicals and adulteration of other food items posing threat to human life;
  - c. Rotting of food grains due to lack of proper storage facilities in the country;
  - d. Killing of Indian fishermen and continuous attacks on them by Sri Lankan Navy;
  - e. Environmental impact of big dams in North Eastern Region States including lower Subansiri Hydro Electric Project;
  - f. Situation arising out of the unilateral revision/withdrawal of the medical cashless insurance products by the insurance companies in the public sector;
  - g. Discrimination being faced by disabled citizens and the urgent need to put in place an appropriate administrative and legal framework to address their requirements.
13. The following issues were discussed at length for more than 8 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions:-
- i. Recent developments relating to the Bhopal gas tragedy; and
  - ii. Large Scale illegal mining in the country.
14. The issues regarding need to (a) constitute an Environment Adaptation and Mitigation Fund to meet the inevitable costs of adaptation arising from Global Warming and Climate Change (b) provide special financial and other assistance to the State of Sikkim for development purposes were discussed through Private Members' Resolutions.
15. During the Session, 17 Private Member's Bills were introduced and two Bills moved by Members were discussed in the House.
16. During the Session, 90 Reports/Statements of various Parliamentary Committees including those of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were presented or laid on the Table of the House.
17. Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget for the third quarter of the Financial Year 2009-2010 under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 and Foreign Trade Policy - 2009-2014 were few important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
18. In order to cover maximum number of Questions during the Question Hour, the Chairman reminded the Members through an Observation that Supplementaries should be brief, specific, relevant and within the scope of the main Question and also requested Ministers to give brief answers to supplementary Questions.
19. The proceedings during the Question Hour were disrupted on 8 days over one and other issues and not even a single Question was taken up for oral answer on those days. However, 460 Starred Questions and 3500 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 76 Starred Questions were orally answered. Four Short Notice Questions and two Half-an-Hour discussions were also taken up during the Session.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Highlights of work transacted during the 220<sup>th</sup> Session – At a glance

<b>Sittings</b>	Date of issue of Summons	07-07-2010
	Duration of the Session	26-07-2010 to 31-08-2010
	Number of actual days of sitting	26
	Actual Hours of sittings ( <i>excluding recess intervals</i> )	About 120 Hrs.
	Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	35 + Hrs.
	Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	About 30 Hrs.
	Date of prorogation of Session	-
<b>Questions</b>	No. of Starred Questions listed	460
	No. of Starred Questions answered orally	76
	No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3500
	No. of Short Notice Questions taken up	4
	No. of Half-an-Hour Discussions taken up	2
<b>Government Bills</b>	No. of Bills introduced	8
	No. of Bills withdrawn	1
	No. of Bills passed/returned	24
	No. of Bills referred to Select Committee	2
<b>Private Members' Business</b>	No. of Bills introduced	17
	No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
	No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	1
	No. of Resolution part discussed	1
	No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived	1
<b>Oath/Affirmation</b>	No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	59
<b>Statements by Ministers</b>	No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	9
<b>Matters of public importance raised</b>	No. of Calling Attention	7
	No. of Short Duration Discussions	2
	No. of Special Mentions	153
	No. of Matters raised with permission	72
	Submission by Members	-
<b>Papers Laid on the Table</b>		1283 papers