

RAJYA SABHA

STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 225TH SESSION

[12-03-2012 TO 30-03-2012
AND
24-04-2012 TO 22-05-2012]

1. The 225th Session (Budget Session) commenced on Monday, the 12th March, 2012. The Session, as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 22nd May, 2012.
2. The Session had 35 sittings *including* the Special Sitting held on 13th May, 2012 and the House sat for more than 165 hours. During the Session, more than 22 hours were lost on issues like (a) alleged atrocities committed on Tamils in Sri Lanka, (b) alleged scam in coal allocation reported by CAG, (c) allegations by the Army Chief on the offer of a bribe to him, (d) leakage of secret letter from the Army Chief to the Prime Minister regarding Defence preparedness, (e) creation of Telangana State, (f) recent disclosures in the Bofors gun case, (g) alleged role of Minister of Home Affairs in the Aircel-Maxis deal, and (h) alleged involvement of Governor of Gujarat in a land grab case. The House, however, made up this loss by skipping lunch recess and sitting late for more than 29 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. The House had a Special Sitting held on Sunday, the 13th May, 2012 to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the first sitting of Rajya Sabha. On that day, the House had a full-fledged discussion on the theme “**Sixty years journey of the Indian Parliament**”, which was initiated by the Prime Minister and Leader of the House. The Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of various parties/groups, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and some Members participated in the discussion which lasted for more than 5 hours. Shri Rishang Keishing, Member, who was a Member of the First Lok Sabha, was one of the special speakers on the occasion. At the end, a Resolution moved by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, was also adopted unanimously.
4. The Chairman, Rajya Sabha launched the Debate Portal of Rajya Sabha (<http://rsdebate.nic.in>), an online repository of all the Debates of the Rajya Sabha since the first Session held in May 1952, during the inaugural function of the ‘Orientation Programme’ for newly elected/nominated Members on the 19th May, 2012.

5. The Prime Minister introduced the Minister of Railways to the House during the first part of the Session.
6. The House was informed about the recognition accorded to Shri Arun Jaitley as the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 3rd April, 2012, consequent upon his re-election to Rajya Sabha.
7. The House bade farewell to 58 Members of Rajya Sabha whose term of office expired in the month of April, 2012. The House also offered its good wishes to Shri K. Rahman Khan, who relinquished the Office of Deputy Chairman on the expiration of his term of office *w.e.f.* 2nd April, 2012.
8. 61 new Members (58 elected/re-elected in the biennial elections from 16 States *namely* Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal; one Member elected in the Bye election from the State of Uttar Pradesh, and 2 Nominated Members) joined the House during the Session.
9. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignations of Shri Rasheed Masood, Shri Naresh Agrawal and Shri Kalraj Mishra, Members representing the State of Uttar Pradesh.
10. The House was also informed about the nomination/re-nomination of Members on the newly re-constituted Panel of Vice-Chairman, Rajya Sabha.
11. During the Session, the House condoled the death of Shri B. B. Tiwari, sitting Member and the House adjourned on 25th April, 2012 as a mark of respect to him. The House also condoled the death of 7 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
12. References to the (a) victims of earthquake in Philippines and Avalanches in J&K; (b) International World Water Day; (c) victims of Maoist attack in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra; (d) successful test firing of the Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile AGNI-V; (e) National Panchayati Raj Diwas; and (f) victims of a ferry accident in Dhubri District of Assam and (g) plane crash in Nepal were made by the Chair.
13. The Chair also made a reference on the occasion of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Minister of Finance, Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of various parties/groups and some Members also associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman.

14. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 12th March, 2012. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for four days and lasted for more than 13 hours.
15. The Railway and General Budgets for the year 2012-13 were laid on the Table of the House on the 14th and 16th March, 2012, respectively. The Outcome Budgets of various Ministries were also laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
16. The discussion on the Railway Budget was spread over three days and lasted for about 11 hours. The discussion on the General Budget was also spread over three days and lasted for about 12 hours.
17. Working of the 3 Ministries *namely*, Labour and Employment, Coal and Defence were discussed in the House. Members from various political parties/groups participated in the discussions which lasted for about 15 hours.
18. There were 11 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) situation in Sri Lanka (b) accident at unmanned level crossing on North-Eastern Railway resulting in loss of human lives and injuries (c) revision of MGNREGA wage rates (d) action taken to curb corruption in army procurement deals and the CBI Inquiry ordered into the reported allegation by Army Chief of a bribe offer of Rs. 14 crore for passing a defence procurement deal (e) defence preparedness of the country in the light of the reported allegations by the Army Chief on defence procurement (f) launch of Radar Imaging Statellite-I (RISAT-I), (g) visit of President of Pakistan to India on April 8, 2012 (h) alleged role of Minister of Home Affairs in the Aircel-Maxis deal, (i) condition of Indian workers in Angola, (j) train accident near Penneconda in Andhra Pradesh, and (k) ongoing strike by Air India pilots. Some of these statements provided opportunities to Members to seek further clarifications from the Ministers concerned. 39 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.
19. There were about 204 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. About 115 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
20. 5 Government Bills were introduced including the Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council (Repeal) Bill, the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amdt.) Bill, the Anand Marriage (Amdt.) Bill and the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Bill. Consideration of 3 Government Bills, *namely*, the Border Security Force (Amendment) Bill, the Whistle Blowers Protection Bill and the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill

were deferred and 22 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The General and Railways Appropriations Bills, the Finance Bill, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Amendment Bill, the Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, the National Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, the Chemical Weapons Convention (Amendment) Bill, the Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, the Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha, was referred to the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.

21. The following 2 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session :-
 - (i) Discrimination and racial profiling faced by the students from the north-eastern states in some parts of the country;
 - (ii) Situation arising out of severe drought in the State of Karnataka resulting into failure of *Kharif* and *Rabi* crops.
22. The following issues were discussed at length for about 9 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (i) Issue of reservation for SCs and STs in promotions during service;
 - (ii) Problem of food grains storage in the country;
 - (iii) Normalization of relations with Pakistan and issues relating to human rights violation of minorities in Pakistan.
23. Two Statutory Motions seeking annulment/modification of Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011 and the Airports Authority of India (Major Airports) Development Fees Rules, 2011, were discussed in the House after a long time. A Resolution seeking approval of the recommendations made in the Second Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 2009 was also adopted.
24. The issue regarding need to create a separate State of Telengana was discussed through a Private Members' Resolution.

25. During the Session, 26 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and the issues regarding (a) pre-examination coaching centres regulatory authority and (b) need to insert a new article 371-J in the Constitution of India, were discussed at length through two Private Members' Bills. The issue regarding prohibition and eradication of ragging was also discussed through another Private Member Bill.
26. During the Session, 197 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.
27. Report on the State of Indian Agriculture, Economic Survey, 2011-12, Action Taken Report on the recommendation of the 13th Finance Commission on debt relief to States, Report on Trend and Progress of Housing in India (June, 2011), Public Enterprises Survey, 2010-11, Report of the National Commission for Minorities for 2009-10 along with an Action Taken Memorandum on its recommendations, Report of the University Grants Commission, 2010-11, Report on the Mahatama Gandhi NREGA Act, 2005, Report of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions for 2010-11 along with an Action Taken Memorandum on its recommendations, First Interim Report of the Justice M.B. Shah Commission of Inquiry for Illegal Mining of Iron Ore and Manganese, Report on the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 for the year 2009, Report on the SC/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Reports of the Law Commission of India on compounding of (IPC) Offences, etc., Report of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and White Paper on Black Money were some of the important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
28. During the Session, 660 Starred Questions and 5115 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 103 Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up on 11 days due to pandemonium and interruptions in the House over one or the other issue. 12 Short Notice Questions in a single Session, breaking a record of last three decades, were taken up during the Session. Two Half-an-Hour discussions were also held.

Highlights of work transacted during the 225th Session – At a glance

Sittings	Date of issue of Summons	16-02-2012
	Duration of the Session	12-03-2012 to 22-05-2012
	Number of actual days of sitting	35
	Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	165 + Hrs.
	Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	22 + Hrs.
	Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	29 + Hrs.
	Date of prorogation of Session	-
Questions	No. of Starred Questions listed	660
	No. of Starred Questions answered orally	103
	No. of Unstarred Questions answered	5115
	Short Notice Questions	12
	Half-an-Hour Discussions	2
Government Bills	No. of Bills introduced	5
	No. of Bills withdrawn	-
	No. of Bills passed/returned	22
	No. of Bills referred to Select Committee	1
	No. of Bills deferred	3
Private Members' Business	No. of Bills introduced	26
	No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
	No. of Bills withdrawn/negated	2
	No. of Resolution part discussed	1
	No. of Resolution withdrawn/negated	-
Oath/Affirmation	No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	61
Statements by Ministers	No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	11
Matters of public importance raised	No. of Calling Attentions	2
	No. of Short Duration Discussions	3
	No. of Special Mentions	204
	No. of Matters raised with permission	115
	Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table		2051