

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STATISTICAL INFORMATION**  
**PERTAINING TO THE 234<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**[ 23-02-2015 TO 20-03-2015 ]**

1. The 234<sup>th</sup> (Budget) Session commenced on Monday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 and was scheduled to adjourn *sine die* on the 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, with a recess from the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 to the 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.
2. The Session adjourned on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 to meet again on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2015, as per the schedule. However, the Rajya Sabha was prorogued by the President on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.
3. The Session had 19 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 109 hours. During the Session, more than 17 hours were lost on various issues like (a) procedural aspects and legislative propriety in regard to Bills replacing the Ordinances when similar Bills were pending in the House, (b) remarks made by RSS Chief against Mother Teresa, (c) need to give special status and financial package to Andhra Pradesh, (d) reported ban on the telecast of the documentary *titled* "India's Daughter" featuring the interview of the main accused in the Nirbhaya case, (e) remarks made by retired Judge Markandey Katju on 'Mahatma Gandhi' and 'Netaji Subash Chandra Bose', (f) publication of a map in RSS mouthpiece 'Organiser' showing Jammu & Kashmir as a part of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), (g) directive of the Islamabad High Court terming the detention of Lashkar-e-Toiba leader Zakhiur Rehman Lakhvi as illegal, (h) enquiry by Delhi Police on Rahul Gandhi, alleged political and corporate espionage, (i) gang rape of a 70 year old nun in Kolkata and attack on a church in Haryana, (j) death of an I.A.S. Officer in Karnataka, (k) the problems faced by farmers in various parts of the country due to huge loss of crops on account of unprecedented heavy rains and hailstorms, and (l) attack by Militants on Raj Bagh Police Station in Kathua District of Jammu & Kashmir. The House, however, made up this loss by skipping lunch recess and sitting late for more than 15 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
4. The House was informed about the recognition of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, consequent upon his re-election to the Rajya Sabha from the State of Jammu & Kashmir.
5. 7 newly elected/re-elected Members in the biennial/bye elections from the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and West Bengal joined the House during the Session.

6. The Chair gave Rulings on the (i) introduction of a Bill in one House of Parliament when a substantially identical Bill is pending in the other House; (ii) consideration/passing of a Bill transmitted to Rajya Sabha by Lok Sabha when a substantially identical Bill is pending in Rajya Sabha; and (iii) validity of a notice of an amendment given by a Member for recommitment of a Bill as reported by a Select Committee to the same Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha .
7. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of H.E. King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Shri R. K. Laxman, an eminent cartoonist; Shrimati Manorama D. Sharama, sitting Member and 6 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
8. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignations of Shri Mohammad Shafi and Shri Srinjoy Bose, Members, representing the States of Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal respectively.
9. A Reference on International Women's Day was made by the Chair.
10. A Resolution condemning the remarks made by former Judge of the Supreme Court, Shri Justice Markandey Katju, against the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, was unanimously adopted by the House.
11. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for five days and lasted for more than 17 hours. The Motion was adopted, as amended, with the House accepting the amendment moved by Shri Sitaram Yechury, Shri P. Rajeeve and Shri T.K. Rangarajan.
12. The Railway and General Budgets for the year 2015-16 were laid on the Table of the House on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2015, respectively, during the Session. Outcome Budgets of various Ministries/Departments were also laid on the Table of the House.
13. The discussion on the Railway Budget and related Appropriation Bills spread over four days, lasted for 10<sup>1/2</sup> hours. The discussion on the General Budget and related Appropriation Bills was also spread over two days and lasted for more than 11 hours.
14. The Minister of Women and Child Development replied to the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Women and Child Development held in August, 2014, during the 232<sup>nd</sup> Session.

15. There were 7 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) outbreak of H1N1 Seasonal Influenza (Swine Flu) and the steps taken by Government of India in this regard (b) release of a separatist Leader, Masarat Alam by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir (c) remarks made by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister regarding shooting of Indian fishermen entering their territorial waters by the Sri Lankan Navy (d) landing of a Solar Powered Aircraft in Ahmedabad on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 (e) initiatives taken by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways through launching of Web Portal named 'INAM-PRO-Platform for infrastructure and Material Providers (f) Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to Seychelles, Mauritius and Sri Lanka and (g) Central Sector Scheme of Financial Assistance for On-Board Ship Training for Indian Merchant Navy Cadets/Trainees. Some of these statements provided opportunities to Members to seek clarifications from the Ministers concerned. 16 Statements were also laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
16. The House was informed by the concerned Ministers about the (a) BBC documentary *titled* 'India's Daughter' *inter alia* featuring interview of the main accused in the Nirbhaya case (b) information received from the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir regarding the circumstances related to the release of separatist Leader, Masarat Alam and (c) derailment of the train engine and two coaches of train No. 14266 Dehradun-Varanasi Express near Bachhrawan Railway Station on Lucknow Rae Bareilly line of Lucknow Division of Northern Railways in Uttar Pradesh on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.
17. There were 121 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session and 99 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
18. Three Government Bills were withdrawn and two Government Bills were referred to the Select Committees of the Rajya Sabha. 12 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The General and Railways Appropriations Bills, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, and The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session.
19. The matter relating to the plight of rubber farmers due to fall in prices of rubber was discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session.

20. The matter relating to the losses suffered by farmers due to recent rains in various parts of the country was also discussed at length for more than 2 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussion.

Besides, a discussion on the various problems being faced by farmers in the country was also held by dispensing with the Zero Hour on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.

21. During the Session, 12 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 3 Private Members' Bills *namely* (a) the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2013; (b) the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2014; and (c) the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014 were discussed at length.
22. During the Session, 17 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. 4 Reports of the Select Committees on the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014; the Payment and Settlement Systems (Amendment) Bill, 2014; The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2015 and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2015 were also presented to the House.
23. Report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (Volumes I & II) along with an ATR, Public Enterprises Survey (Volumes I & II), White Paper on Indian Railways (February, 2015), Economic Survey, 2014-15 (Volumes I & II), Report of the National Human Rights Commission, Annual Assessment Report of the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2013-14, Report of the Central Information Commission (CIC), New Delhi, 2013-14, Report on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for the year 2013, Report on the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 for the year 2013, 60<sup>th</sup> Report of the University Grants Commission (UGC), 2013-14, Report of the National Commission for Women (NCW), 2011-13 along with ATRs, Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, etc. were some of the important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
24. During the Session, 255 Starred Questions and 2719 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 93 Starred Questions were orally answered. One Short Notice Question was also answered.

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**Highlights of work transacted during the 234<sup>th</sup> Session – At a glance**

<b>Sittings</b>	Date of issue of Summons	30-01-2015
	Duration of the Session	23-02-2015 to 20-03-2015
	Number of actual days of sitting	19
	Actual Hours of sittings ( <i>excluding recess intervals</i> )	+108 Hrs.
	Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	+17 Hrs.
	Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	+15 Hrs.
	Date of prorogation of Session	28-03-2015
<b>Questions</b>	No. of Starred Questions listed	255
	No. of Starred Questions answered orally	93
	No. of Unstarred Questions answered	2719
	Short Notice Questions	1
	Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
<b>Government Bills</b>	No. of Bills introduced	-
	No. of Bills withdrawn	3
	No. of Bills passed/returned	12
	No. of Bills referred to Select Committee	2
	No. of Bills deferred	-
<b>Private Members' Business</b>	No. of Bills introduced	12
	No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
	No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	2
	No. of Resolution part discussed	-
	No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived	-
<b>Oath/Affirmation</b>	No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	7
<b>Statements by Ministers</b>	No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	7
	No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	16
<b>Matters of public importance raised</b>	No. of Calling Attentions	1
	No. of Short Duration Discussions	1
	No. of Special Mentions	121
	No. of Matters raised with permission	99
	Submission by Members	-
<b>Papers Laid on the Table</b>		997

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