

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 235TH SESSION

[23-04-2015 TO 13-05-2015]

1. The 235th Session commenced on Thursday, the 23rd of April, 2015 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 13th of May, 2015.
2. The Session had 13 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 72 hours. During the Session, more than 21 hours were lost on issues like (a) re-promulgation of the Land Acquisition Ordinance, (b) derogatory remarks made by a ruling party Member against an opposition Member, (c) procedural formalities during the consideration of a Private Member Bill, (d) agrarian crisis and suicides by farmers in various part of the country (e) certain statements made by the Prime Minister during his visits to Germany and Canada (f) infertility medicine guaranteeing a male child publicized by Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev, (g) Non-grant of any relief measures/ package to farmers, (h) harassment and death of a teenage girl in a bus at Moga in Punjab, (i) non-establishment of a separate High Court for Telangana State, (j) widening the scope of probing the issue of tapping phone calls of parliamentarians, by the Privilege Committee, and (k) allegations against a Union Minister in the context of a CAG report The House, however, sat late for more than 9 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. 3 Members *namely* Shri Abdul Wahab, Shri K. K. Ragesh and Shri Vayalar Ravi, elected in the biennial election held from the State of Kerala, joined the House during the Session.
4. The House was informed about the nomination of Shri T. K. Rangarajan, Member to the Panel of Vice-Chairmen.
5. The Chair gave Rulings on the issue of revisiting the Report of the Committee of Privileges, presented to the House on 6th of May, 2015 and enlarging the scope of Committee's examination.
6. During the Session, the Chair made references to the passing away of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Former Prime Minister of Singapore and 5 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
7. References to the victims of (a) terrorist attack on a University campus at Garissa in north-eastern Kenya; (b) floods and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Maoists attacks on security forces in Sukma, Kanker and Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh; (d) cyclonic hailstorm in Bihar; and (e) earthquake in Nepal and India were made by the Chair. Leaders of various parties and groups including Leader of the Opposition were also allowed to make submissions on the devastating earthquake in Nepal and India.

8. The Chair offered felicitations to (a) the Scientists and Engineers of ISRO for the successful launch of IRNSS-1D and (b) Ms. Saina Nehwal and Ms. Sania Mirza on becoming the first Indian women players to attain the world number one ranking in their respective sports.
9. The House bid farewell to 2 retired Members from the State of Kerala, whose term of office had expired on the 21st of April, 2015.
10. A Question of breach of Privilege arising out of Reports published in a newspaper and a magazine containing allegations against the functioning of the Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV) was raised by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of the Opposition.
11. 3 Statements by Ministers on (i) the recent developments in the Republic of Yemen and efforts made for safe evacuation of Indian Nationals, (ii) certain allegations made against Minister of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping by some Members in the context of a CAG Report laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 30th of April, 2015, and (iii) attempt to commit suicide by four girl trainees of Sports Authority of India's Special Area Games Water Sports Centre at Alappuzha, Kerala, were made/laid in the House. 18 Statements were also laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
12. The Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, made a personal explanation, in regard to certain allegations against him made by some Members in the context of a CAG Report laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 30th of April, 2015.
13. There were 94 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. 42 Members raised 49 matters with the permission of the Chair.
14. 2 Government Bills were introduced and 1 Government Bill was withdrawn. 1 Government Bill *namely*, The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 was referred to the Joint Committee of the Houses and 2 Government Bills *namely*, The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013 and The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 were referred to the Select Committees of the Rajya Sabha. 12 Government Bills were passed/returned, during the Session. The Appropriation (Railways and General) Bills, the Finance Bill, the Payment and Settlements Systems (Amendment) Bill, the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, the Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, the Repealing and Amending Bills, the Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill, the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, and the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Bill, were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session.

15. The following 4 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session:-
- (i) reported move of the Election Commission to facilitate voting by Non-resident Indians (NRIs) in the future elections in the country through either proxy voting or e-postal ballot and the risks involved therein;
 - (ii) killing of twenty wood cutters from Tamil Nadu in Andhra Pradesh forests by Andhra Pradesh police;
 - (iii) Safeguarding net neutrality in the country; and
 - (iv) Huge disparity in the air fares of Airlines to various destinations in the country.
16. A discussion on the agrarian crisis and suicides by farmers in various parts of the country, raised by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of the Opposition was also held at length by dispensing with the Business of the day on the 23rd April, 2015. 35 Members participated in the discussion which lasted for about 8 hours.
17. Working of 2 Ministries *namely*, (a) Law & Justice and (b) Social Justice & Empowerment were taken up. However, the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment remained inconclusive. Members from various political parties/groups participated in the discussions, which lasted for more than 7 hours.
18. During the Session, 132 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.
19. The issues regarding need (a) to take measures to complete all the pending projects of Railways in the country, particularly in Odisha, and (b) to amend the various election related provisions of the Representation of People Act, 1951 were discussed at length through Private Members' Resolutions.
20. During the Session, 9 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 2 Private Members' Bills *namely* (a) the Orphans (Reservation of Posts in Government Establishment) Bill, 2012; and (b) the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2014; were discussed at length. The debate on a Bill *namely*, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014, was, however adjourned on a motion moved by the mover of the Bill under Rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.

21. The Rajya Sabha created history after a span of more than 36 years by adopting a Private Member's Bill that aims to promote the rights of transgenders, including reservations and financial aid, with Members cutting across party lines to unanimously endorse the proposed legislation by voice vote.
 22. Reports of the Law Commission of India on 'Obsolete Laws: Warranting immediate Repeal' and 'Right of the Hindu Wife to Maintenance' ; Report of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions; Reports of some NGOs in compliance with the provisions of GFR, 2005; Report of the National Commission for Backward Classes; Report of the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh ; First Report of the Hemisphere Properties India limited; Statements on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget and Market Borrowings by the Central Government; Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-20; and Handbook of Procedures of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2015-20 were some of the important Reports that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
 23. During the Session, 195 Starred Questions and 2024 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these, 48 Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour, however, could not be taken up on 5 days due to pandemonium and interruptions in the House over one issue or the other.
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Highlights of work transacted during the 235th Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		08-04-2015
Duration of the Session		23-04-2015 to 13-05-2015
Number of actual days of sitting		13
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		72+ Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		21+ Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		9+ Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		195
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		48
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		2024
Short Notice Questions		-
Half-an-Hour Discussions		-
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		2
No. of Bills withdrawn		1
No. of Bills passed/returned		12
No. of Bills referred to Joint/Select Committee		3
No. of Bills deferred		1
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		9
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		1
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived		1
No. of Bills passed		1
No. of Bills on which debate adjourned		1
No. of Resolution part discussed		1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived		1
Oath/Affirmation		
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation		3
Statements by Ministers		
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers		3
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees		18
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		4
No. of Short Duration Discussions		-
No. of Special Mentions		94
No. of Matters raised with permission		49
Submission by Members		1
Papers Laid on the Table		1315