

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION  
PERTAINING TO THE 214<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

[ 17-10-2008 TO 24-10-2008

AND

10-12-2008 TO 23-12-2008 ]

1. The Session had 16 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 64 hours. During the Session, more than 10 hours were lost on issues like –
  - (a) Price rise;
  - (b) Increasing incidents of terrorists attacks in various parts of the country;
  - (c) Banners displayed by some Members in the House;
  - (d) Attack on North Indians by MNS workers in Mumbai;
  - (e) Demand to ban the Groups involved in the bomb blasts;
  - (f) Demand for resignation of Shri A.R. Autulay; and
  - (g) Protest against the introduction of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

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.

2. During the Session, thirteen Members, one each from the States of Karnataka, West Bengal and Uttarakhand and ten from the State of Uttar Pradesh joined us in the House. Out of these, 6 Members were elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time.
3. During the Session, the House condoled the death of Shri Laxminarayan Sharma, a sitting Member, Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw and 12 former Members of the Rajya Sabha; *namely* Shri Chimanbhai Haribhai Shukla, Shri N.R. Dasari, Shri Thillai Villalan, Shri J. Chitharanjan, Shri Khan Ghufran Zahidi, Shri Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Shri Krishna Kumar Birla, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Shri Munavvar Hassan, Shri Rama Shankar Kaushik, Shri Vedprakash P.

Goyal and Shri T.G. Deshmukh. The House was adjourned on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008 and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008 as a mark of respect to the memories of Shri Laxminarayan Sharma, sitting Member and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, former Prime Minister of India.

4. There were twelve *suo motu* Statements by Ministers, which were either made or laid. Some of these Statements were—

- (a) India's Civil Nuclear Energy Initiative;
- (b) Successful launch of CHANDRAYAAN-I, Spacecraft, India's first unmanned scientific mission to the Moon;
- (c) Recent developments in Sri Lanka;
- (d) National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) ;
- (e) Recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai;
- (f) Status of Implementation of:—
  - i. Bharat Nirman relating to Ministry of Rural Development;
  - ii. Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme; and
  - iii. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- (g) Revision of Pay Scales of Teachers in Universities and Colleges.
- (h) Status of Implementation of :—
  - i. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana; and
  - ii. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).
- (i) Statement on the circumstances leading to the death of Shri Hemant Karkare and other officers of the Mumbai Police.

The Members sought clarifications on the Statement made by Minister of External Affairs on 'Recent Developments in Sri Lanka'.

5. Members also got an opportunity to have a full-fledged discussion on the Statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs on the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai by dispensing the Question Hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008. 27 Members took part in the discussion which lasted for about nine hours. Thereafter, the House unanimously adopted a Resolution placed by the Minister of Home Affairs.

6. 41 Statements were made/laid in pursuance of the Direction of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, dated the 24-9-2004, on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
7. 13 Notices for Suspension of Question Hour and 97 Notices for matters to be raised with the permission of the Chair were received during the Session.
8. More than 30 important matters were raised by Members during the Session.
9. There were 48 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were raised/laid on the Table by Members, with the permission of the Chair.
10. During the Session, the following six references were made by the Chairman:—
  - a) to the victims of bomb blasts in Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Modasa, Malegaon and Agartala;
  - b) to the victims of stampede at Naina Devi temple in Himachal Pradesh and at Chamunda Devi temple at Jodhpur;
  - c) to the victims of flood in Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Gujarat and in other parts of the country;
  - d) to the successful launch of CHANDRAYAAN-I India's first unmanned scientific mission to the Moon;
  - e) to the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and victims of bomb blasts in Assam; and
  - f) Seventh Anniversary of terrorist attack on the Parliament Building on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2001.
11. Six Government Bills were withdrawn and Seventeen Government Bills were introduced during the Session. Following Government Bills were passed/ returned during the Session:—
  - (i) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005;
  - (ii) The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2008;
  - (iii) The Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007;
  - (iv) The Appropriation (Railways) No.4 Bill, 2008;
  - (v) The Limited Liability Partnership Bill, 2008;
  - (vi) The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 2008;
  - (vii) The Indian Maritime University Bill, 2008;
  - (viii) The National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra Stretch of Rivers Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-

- Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2008;
- (ix) The National Waterway (Kakinada-Puducherry Stretch of Canals and the Kaluvelly Tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry Stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada Stretch of River Krishna) Bill, 2008;
  - (x) The National Jute Board Bill, 2008;
  - (xi) The Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
  - (xii) The President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
  - (xiii) The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
  - (xiv) The Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Amendment Bill, 2008;
  - (xv) The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2005;
  - (xvi) The Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2008;
  - (xvii) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
  - (xviii) The National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008;
  - (xix) The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008
  - (xx) The Science and Engineering Research Board Bill, 2008;
  - (xxi) The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
  - (xxii) The Collection of Statistics Bill, 2007;
  - (xxiii) The South Asian University Bill, 2008;
  - (xxiv) The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2008;
  - (xxv) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007;
  - (xxvi) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 5 Bill, 2008;
  - (xxvii) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2008;
  - (xxviii) The Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

12. During the Session, 37 Private Members' Bills were introduced. The issue regarding need to improve the existing system of judiciary in the country was also discussed at length through a Private Member's Resolution, the discussion on which remained inconclusive.
13. Two Government Resolutions seeking approval of the Notifications issued under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 were adopted.
14. During the Session, 180 Reports of various Parliamentary Committees including those of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were presented or laid on the Table of the House. These include two Reports of the Committee of Privileges on the matters of breach of Privileges.
15. Out of 320 Starred Questions, 39 Questions were orally answered and answers to remaining Starred Questions were laid on the Table along with the answers of 2479 Unstarred Questions.

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## Highlights of work transacted during the 214<sup>th</sup> Session – At a glance

<b>Sittings</b>	
Date of issue of Summons	09-09-2008
Duration of the Session	17-10-2008 to 24-10-2008 10-12-2008 to 23-12-2008
Number of actual days of sitting	16
Actual Hours of sittings ( <i>excluding recess intervals</i> )	70 Hrs. & 37 Min.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	10 <sup>+</sup> Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	15 <sup>+</sup> Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session	24-12-2008
<b>Questions</b>	
No. of Starred Questions listed	320
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	40
No. of Unstarred Questions listed	2479
<b>Government Bills</b>	
No. of Bills introduced	17
No. of Bills withdrawn	6
No. of Bills passed/returned	27
<b>Private Members' Business</b>	
No. of Bills introduced	39
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	NIL
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	NIL
No. of Resolution part discussed	1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived	NIL
<b>Oath/Affirmation</b>	
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	11
<b>Statements by Ministers</b>	
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	12
<b>Matters of public importance raised</b>	
No. of Special Mentions	48
No. of Matters raised with permission	32
<b>Papers Laid on the Table</b>	2616 papers

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