

RAJYA SABHA

STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 219TH SESSION

[22-02-2010 TO 16-03-2010

AND

15-04-2010 TO 07-05-2010]

1. The 219th Session (Budget Session) commenced on Monday, the 22nd February, 2010. The Session, as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 7th May, 2010.
2. The Session had 32 sittings in all and the House sat for about 130 hours. During the Session, more than 47 hours were lost on issues like (a) unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities, (b) hike in fuel prices, (c) protest against the Women Reservation Bill, (d) demand to terminate the suspension of Members, (e) Maoist attack on CRPF personnel in Dantewada district of Chattisgarh, (f) alleged involvement of a Minister in the IPL controversy, (g) demand for a JPC to probe the irregularities in the IPL, (h) alleged phone tapping of some political leaders by NTRO, (i) allocation of 2G Spectrum and alleged authorized phone tapping, (j) clean chit by CBI to a person accused in 1984 riots, (k) reported purchase of illegal arms by Union Minister from Bangladesh and (l) use of CBI against the State Governments by Central Government. The House, however, made up this loss by skipping lunch recess and sitting late for more than 30 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. The House bade farewell to 64 Members of Rajya Sabha whose term of office expired/would be expiring during the months of April, June and July, 2010.
4. 21 new Members (3 elected in the bye-elections from the States of Bihar, Gujarat & Uttar Pradesh; 13 elected/re-elected in the biennial elections from the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Nagaland and Tripura and 5 Nominated Members) joined the House during the Session and they were welcomed.
5. The House was informed by the Chair about the vacancies caused due to the resignations of Shri Hemant Soren and Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil, Members representing the States of Jharkhand and Maharashtra respectively.
6. During the Session, the House condoled the death of Shri Janeshwar Mishra and Shri Krishan Lal Balmiki, sitting Members, Shri Jyoti Basu, former Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mr. Lech Kaczynski, President of Poland, Madam Maria Kaczynski & other senior polish officials and 7 former Members of the Rajya Sabha. The House adjourned on the 22nd February and 21st April, 2010

as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Janeshwar Mishra and Shri Krishan Lal Balmiki respectively.

7. References to the (a) victims of earthquake in Haiti; (b) centenary of the International Women's Day and (c) victims of earthquake in Chile were made by the Chair.
8. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 2010. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for three days and lasted for about 12 hours.
9. The Railway and General Budgets for the year 2010-11 were laid on the Table of the House on the 24th and 26th February, 2010, respectively. The Outcome Budgets of various Ministries were also laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
10. The discussion on the Railway Budget was spread over two days and lasted for more than 8 hours. The discussion on the General Budget was also spread over three days and lasted for more than 9 hours.
11. Working of the 5 Ministries *namely* Power, Youth Affairs and Sports, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Home Affairs were discussed in the House. Members from various political parties/groups participated in the discussions which lasted for about 22 hours.
12. There were 11 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) beheading of a sikh in Pakistan (b) attacks on Indians in Australia (c) talks between India and Pakistan on 25-02-2010 (d) Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia (e) Women empowerment (f) Maoist attack on CRPF personnel in Dantewada district of Chattisgarh (g) alleged telephone tapping or eavesdropping on political leaders by the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) (h) Prime Minister's visits for the Nuclear Security Summit, as well as the IBSA and BRIC Summits, (i) pertaining to an official in the High Commission of India in Islamabad, (j) Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan for the 16th SAARC Summit and (k) Agitation of Motormen of Central and Western Railways, Mumbai. These statements provided opportunities to Members to seek further clarifications. 32 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.
13. The issue pertaining to "Maoist attack on CRPF personnel in Dantewada district of Chattisgarh" which was the subject matter of a Statement made by Minister of Home Affairs was discussed at length in the House. The Leader

of Opposition initiated the discussion and thirteen other Members participated in the debate which spread over for 3 hours and 42 minutes.

14. There were about 127 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session.
15. 10 Government Bills were introduced including the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, the Personal Laws (Amendment) Bill and Indian Medicine Central Council (Amdt.) Bill. One Government Bill, *namely* the Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, was withdrawn and 16 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, (*popularly known as Women's Reservation Bill*); General and Railway Appropriation Bills, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council Bill, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Bill, Plantation Labour (Amdt.) Bill, the Finance Bill, the National Green Tribunal Bill, the Payment of Gratuity (Amdt.) Bill and the Employees' State Insurance (Amdt.) Bill were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session.
16. Seven Members were suspended from the service of the House w.e.f. 9th March, 2010 for the remaining period of the current Session, for disregarding the authority of the Chair by persistently and willfully obstructing the proceedings in the House on the issue of Women Reservation Bill. However, the suspension of six Members was terminated later.
17. The following 5 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session:-
 - (i) Role of print and electronic media indulging in paid news in disguise of news;
 - (ii) Incidents of radiation exposure detected in a scrap market in Delhi and Government's reaction thereto;
 - (iii) HPV vaccine programme by Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) in certain States of India and Government's policy on introduction of such vaccines;
 - (iv) Presence of dangerous quantity of arsenic and other harmful minerals in potable water in various parts of the country and also salination in coastal areas causing harmful diseases and the reaction of the Government in regard thereto; and
 - (v) Irregularities in the functioning of the Medical Council of India in giving approval to medical colleges.
18. The following issues were discussed at length for more than 8 ½ hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions:-

- (i) Continued rise in prices of essential commodities in the country;
(*by dispensing with the Question Hour*).
 - (ii) Alleged tapping of telephones of certain politicians affecting the issue of probity in public life.
19. The issues regarding need to (a) enhance the role of Parliamentary Sovereignty in the sphere of international treaties, entered into by the Government of India, (b) constitute an Environment Adaptation and Mitigation Fund to meet the inevitable costs of adaptation arising from Global Warming and Climate Change were discussed through Private Members' Resolutions.
20. During the Session, 27 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House.
21. A new Integrated Talk-time Management and Display System was initiated with the installation of electronic display board on both sides of the House, indicating the names of Members participating in various debates, discussions on Bills, etc. their party affiliation, division numbers, total time allotted to different parties (including Members coming under 'nominated' and 'others' categories), time already consumed and time left, for Members individually and for political parties. The system *inter alia* displays name and time taken (in reverse mode) by the Members during the Zero Hour. During Calling Attention, Discussion on Private Members' Bills/Resolutions etc., the time consumed by the participating Members is indicated individually on the display board.
22. During the Session, 150 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.
23. Public Enterprises Survey, 2008-09; Economic Survey, 2009-10, Report of the 13th Finance Commission, 14th Progress Report on Action Taken pursuant to recommendations of JPC on Stock Market Scam and Annual Reports of the (a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) (b) Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers and (c) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Human Rights Commission were few important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
24. About 46 matters including two submissions by Members were raised with the permission during the Session.
25. During the Session, 616 Starred Questions and 4752 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 99 Starred Questions were orally answered. A Short Notice Question and a Half-an-Hour discussion were also taken up during the Session.

Highlights of work transacted during the 219th Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		03-02-2010
Duration of the Session		22-02-2010 to 07-05-2010
Number of actual days of sitting		32
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		130 Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		47 + Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		30 + Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		616
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		99
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		4752
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		10
No. of Bills withdrawn		1
No. of Bills passed/returned		16
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee		-
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		27
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		-
No. of Bills withdrawn/negated		-
No. of Resolution part discussed		1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negated		1
Oath/Affirmation		
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation		21
Statements by Ministers		
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers		11
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		5
No. of Short Duration Discussions		2
No. of Special Mentions		127
No. of Matters raised with permission		44
Submission by Members		2
Papers Laid on the Table		1995 papers