

RAJYA SABHA

STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 223RD SESSION

[1-8-2011 TO 8-9-2011]

1. The 223rd Session (Monsoon Session) commenced on Monday, the 1st August, 2011. The Session, as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 8th September, 2011.
2. The Session had 26 sittings in all and the House sat for about 85 hours. During the Session, more than 53 hours were lost on issues like (a) corruption, (b) price rise, (c) land acquisition in Uttar Pradesh, (d) indictment of Chief Minister of Delhi by CAG in its Report on Commonwealth Games, 2010, (e) police atrocities on BJP party workers in Delhi and farmers in Pune, (f) agitation launched by Shri Anna Hazare for a strong Lokpal Bill, (g) situation arising out of “Anshan” by Shri Anna Hazare against rampant corruption in the country, (h) demand for recall of Governor of Gujarat on the issue of appointment of Lokayukta in the State without consultation with the State Government, (i) bomb blast near Delhi High Court, and (j) arrest of a Member of Rajya Sabha in cash for vote scam. The House, however, made up this loss by skipping lunch recess and sitting late for about 14 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. During the Session, 11 new Ministers [4 Cabinet Ministers, 2 Ministers of State (Independent Charge) and 5 Ministers of State] were introduced to the House by the Prime Minister.
4. 13 new Members elected/re-elected in the bye/biennial elections from States of Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal joined the House during the Session and they were welcomed.
5. The House also bade farewell to the retiring Members of Rajya Sabha from the States of Gujarat and West Bengal, whose term of office was expiring on the 18th August, 2011.
6. The House was informed by the Chair about the vacancies caused due to the resignations of Shri Prithviraj Chavan and Shri K. V. Ramalingam, Members representing the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu respectively.
7. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of 14 former Members of the Rajya Sabha. The House also condoled the death of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Shri Dorjee Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.
8. References to the victims of (a) train accidents involving the Chhapra-Mathura Express, the Howrah-Kalka Mail and the Guwahati-Puri Express; (b) serial bomb

blasts in Mumbai; (c) Cruise ship mishap in Russia; and (d) tragic bomb blast and shooting in Norway.

9. Prime Minister made a Statement on the situation arising out of the agitation launched by Shri Anna Hazare on which Leaders of various parties/groups in Rajya Sabha, Ministers and some Members sought clarification.
10. Further, a Statement made by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance on the issues relating to setting up of a Lokpal was discussed at length on Saturday, the 27th August, 2011. The discussion lasted for about seven and half hours after which the House unanimously adopted a Resolution for a strong Lokpal Bill.
11. Apart from these two Statements, there were also six *suo motu* Statements by Ministers relating to (a) visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to India, (b) Commonwealth Games (CWG), 2010, (c) situation in Sri Lanka, (d) Nuclear Enrichment and Reprocessing Technology, (e) court cases relating to elections to the SGPC, and (f) bomb blast near Delhi High Court. 22 Statements were also 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.
12. During the Session, a Question of breach of Privilege arising out of the derogatory remarks made against Member of Parliament by Shrimati Kiran Bedi and Shri Om Puri during the agitation for Jan Lokpal Bill launched by Shri Anna Hazare at Ramlila Ground, New Delhi, was also raised in the House.
13. The Rajya Sabha, for the first time in its history, initiated proceedings for removal from Office of the Calcutta High Court judge Justice Soumitra Sen on charges of misappropriation of funds and misrepresentation of facts before the Court. The proceedings against Justice Sen were initiated on the basis of Motions moved by Shri Sitaram Yechury, CPI(M) for presenting an Address to the President for removal from Office of Justice Soumitra Sen of Calcutta High Court and for considering the Report of the Inquiry Committee. After about seven hours of intense debate spread over two days, the House divided and adopted with overwhelming majority, the Motion and the Address to the President praying for removal from Office of Justice Sen.
14. There were 158 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. During the Zero Hour, 31 Matters were raised by Members with the permission during the Session.
15. During the Session, 3 Government Bills were introduced and 9 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry (Amendment) Bill, the Coinage Bill, the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2010, the Transplantation of Human Organs

- (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks Laws) Amendment Bill, and the Customs (Amendment and Validation) Bill were some of the notable Bills which the House returned/passed.
16. The situation arising out of frequent rail accidents was discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session.
 17. The following four issues were discussed at length for about 16 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions:-
 - (a) growing incidents of terrorism in the country with special reference to recent blasts in Mumbai on the 13th July, 2011;
 - (b) Commonwealth Games, 2010 and the developments that have taken place thereafter;
 - (c) growing incidence of corruption in the country; and
 - (d) problems being faced by Sri Lankan Tamils.
 18. During the Session, 28 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and the issues regarding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants and need to give special financial assistance to the State of Sikkim, were discussed at length through two Private Members' Bills. The issue regarding need for restructuring the proposed Food Security Bill and a comprehensive central legislation to regulate fees, admission and academic quality in private professional institutes and private deemed universities were also discussed, through Private Members Resolutions.
 19. During the Session, 140 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.
 20. Progress Report on the Action Taken Pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam; Annual Reports (2008-10) of the Central Information Commission established under the Right to Information Act, 2005; Report of the Independent Inquiry Committee on Mumbai High North Platform Fire on 27th July, 2005 together with an Action Taken Report; Reports of the Law Commission of India on Conversion/re-conversion to another religion and Court fees in Supreme Court *vis-à-vis* Corporate Litigation; Report of the National Commission for Minorities together with an Action Taken Report; and Statements on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget were few important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
 21. During the Session, 500 Starred Questions and 3875 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 65 Starred Questions were orally answered. A Short Notice Question and a Half-an-Hour discussion were also taken up during the Session. The Question Hour could not be held on 14 occasions due to interruptions, etc. in the House.

Highlights of work transacted during the 223rd Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		13-7-2011
Duration of the Session		1-8-2011 to 8-9-2011
Number of actual days of sitting		26
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		About 85 Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		53 + Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		14 + Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		500
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		65
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		3875
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		3
No. of Bills withdrawn		-
No. of Bills passed/returned		9
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee		-
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		28
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		1
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived		1
No. of Resolution part discussed		1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived		1
Oath/Affirmation		
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation		13
Statements by Ministers		
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers		8
No. of Statements laid by Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees		22
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		1
No. of Short Duration Discussions		4
No. of Special Mentions		158
No. of Matters raised with permission		31
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		1606 papers