

As on 8th May, 2013

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 228TH SESSION

[21-02-2013 TO 22-03-2013
AND
22-04-2013 TO 08-05-2013]

1. The 228th Session (Budget Session) commenced on Thursday, the 21st February, 2013. The Session which was scheduled to adjourn *sine die* on the 10th May, 2013 comes to an end today, the 8th May, 2013.
2. The Session had **32** sittings in all and the House sat for more than **82** hours. During the Session, more than **82** hours were lost on issues like (a) bomb blasts in Hyderabad, (b) poll related violence in Golpara District of Assam, (c) phone-tapping, (d) increase in prices of petrol and diesel, (e) killing of a police officer at Kunda in Uttar Pradesh, (f) financial impropriety and misappropriation in Loan Waiver Scheme for farmers, (g) alleged land deals by kin of a leading politician, (h) refusal by Italy to send back two marines accused of killing Indian fishermen (i) plight of ethnic Tamils in Sri Lanka, (j) decreasing rate of production of BT cotton, (k) remarks made by a Union Minister against the Leader of a political party, (l) India's stand on the Resolution against Sri Lanka in the United Nations Human Rights Council, (m) rape of a five year old girl child in Delhi, (n) leakage of draft Report of JPC on 2G Scam, (o) reported vetting of the CBI Report on Coal Block allocation scam by the Law Minister, (p) demand for the resignation of the Prime Minister and Law Minister over the role in the Coal block allocation scam, (q) land boundary agreement with Bangladesh to the detriment of the interests of the people of Assam, (r) multi-crore chit fund scam in West Bengal, (s) demand for resignation of the Railway Minister to facilitate fair investigation in the case relating to the arrest of his nephew by the CBI for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹90 lakhs for getting the senior Railway officer appointed as a member of the Railway Board, and (t) demand for dismissal of Uttar Pradesh Government. The House, however, made up this loss by skipping lunch recess and sitting late for more than **12** Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. The House bade farewell to one Nominated Member, whose term of office expired in the month of April, 2013 and two retiring Members from the State of Assam and six retiring Members from the State of Tamil Nadu, whose term of office would expire in the months of June and July, 2013.

4. 3 new Members *namely* Shri K.C. Tyagi, Shrimati Rajani Patil and Shrimati Wansuk Syiem elected in the Bye elections from the States of Bihar, Maharashtra and Meghalaya respectively joined the House during the Session.
5. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignations of Shri Upendra Kushwaha and Shri Thomas Sangma, Members representing the States of Bihar and Meghalaya respectively.
6. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of Mr. Hugo Chavez, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mr. Mohammed Zillur Rahman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Lady Margaret Thatcher, Former Prime Minister of United Kingdom and Shrimati V.S. Rama Devi, Former Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and **12** former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
7. References to the (a) victims of stampede at Allahabad Railway Station; (b) victims of bomb blast in Hyderabad; (c) successful launching of the Indo-French satellite 'SARAL' and 6 other foreign mini and micro satellite on board by PSLV-C20; (d) victims of fire in a market building in Kolkata; (e) victims of school van accident in Jalandhar district of Punjab; (f) International Women's Day, (g) terrorist attack on a paramilitary camp in Srinagar, (h) victims of bus accident in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra, (i) World Water Day, (j) victims of building collapse in Thane, Maharashtra, (k) attack on Indian Army personnel in Sudan, (l) victims of bomb blasts in Boston, USA, (m) World Earth Day, (n) National Panchayati Raj Divas, and (o) sad demise of Shri Sarabjit Singh, an Indian National in Pakistan were made by the Chair.
8. The Chair also offered felicitations to Ms. Rahi Sarnobat for winning Gold medal in 25 metre sports pistol event in ISSF World Cup held at Changwon, South Korea.
9. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 21st February, 2013. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for three days and lasted for about 11 hours.
10. The Railway and General Budgets for the year 2013-14 were laid on the Table of the House on the 26th and 28th February, 2013, respectively. The Budget (Jharkhand), 2013-14 and Outcome Budgets of various Ministries were also laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
11. The discussion on the Railway Budget was spread over four days and lasted for more than 10 hours. However, as discussion on the General Budget, Jharkhand Budget and Appropriation Bills related to both Budgets could not take place due to continued disruptions of the proceedings on the issue of Sri Lankan Tamils and in view of the limited time available, Members were

permitted for the first time to lay their written speeches on the General Budget, Jharkhand Budget and Appropriation Bills on the Table of the House.

12. 4 Ministries *namely*, Law and Justice, Home Affairs, External Affairs and Power were selected for discussion on their working in the House. However, none of the Ministries could be discussed.
13. There were **13** *suo motu* Statements by Prime Minister/Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) bomb blasts in Hyderabad on 21st February, 2013 (b) 'Suryanelli' case (c) situation in Golpara District of Assam (d) phone tapping (e) Bhandara Rape incident in Maharashtra (f) revision of MGNREGA wage rates for the period 2013-14, (g) refusal of Italian Government to send back two marines accused of killing Indian fishermen (h) terrorist attack on CRPF camp in Srinagar on 13th March, 2013, (i) apprehension of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy, (j) stand of the Indian Government on the Resolution on Sri Lanka in the U.N. Human Rights Council, (k) concerns raised with regard to recent changes notified by the Union Public Service Commission for Civil Services Examination, 2013, (l) return of two Italian Marines to India accused in the killing of two Indian fishermen, (m) Bangalore bomb blasts. Some of these statements provided opportunities to Members to seek further clarifications from the Ministers concerned. **22** statements were made/laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
14. There were about **90** Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. About **37** matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
15. **9** Government Bills were introduced and one Government Bill was withdrawn. Consideration of a Government Bill, *namely*, the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Bill, replacing an ordinance was deferred and the Bill was referred to Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee. **14** Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The General and Railways Appropriations Bills, the Finance Bill, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, Jharkhand Appropriation Bills were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session.
16. The following 2 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session :-
 - (i) Plight of Tamils in Sri Lanka;
 - (ii) All India strike by Trade Unions and workers of organized and unorganized sector.

17. The following issues were discussed at length for more than **10** hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-

- (i) Purchase of VVIP helicopters from Augusta Westland by the Ministry of Defence; and
- (ii) Increasing pollution in various rivers in the country, particularly the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers.

However, the discussion on the situation arising out of atrocities on and social exploitation of women and girl child in the country resulting in growing sense of insecurity in the society remained inconclusive due to continuous disruptions of the proceedings.

18. A Resolution placed by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, rejecting interference in the internal affairs of India and calling up the National Assembly of Pakistan to desist from such acts of support for extremist and terrorist elements, was unanimously adopted by the House.

19. Statutory Resolution seeking approval of the President's Rule in the State of Jharkhand and a Resolution seeking approval of the recommendations made in the Third Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 2009 were also adopted.

20. A motion regarding appointment of a Joint Committee to inquire into the allegations of payment of bribes in the acquisition of VVIP Helicopters by the Ministry of Defence from M/s. Augusta Westland and the role of alleged middlemen in the transaction was also adopted.

21. The issues regarding need to (a) amend section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, (b) take necessary legal, administrative and financial decisions and create conducive atmosphere for the working classes, (c) form an independent and empowered regulatory authority capable of taking action against erring media, (d) amend the Constitution to provide an Upper House in all the States and also empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions were discussed at length through Private Members' Resolutions.

22. During the Session, **10** Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 2 Private Members' Bills *namely* (a) the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill and (b) the Official Languages Bill, were discussed at length.

23. During the Session, **187** 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.

24. Report on the Working of the Public Sector Banks, Public Enterprises Survey, 2011-12, Economic Survey, 2012-13, Report of the National Commission for Backward Classes, 2008-09 along with Action Taken Memorandum on its recommendations, Report of the University Grants Commission, 2011-12, Reports of the Law Commission of India on Costs in Civil Litigation, Passive Euthanasia, Prevention of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances and on Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, Report on the State of Indian Agriculture, 2012-13, Report of the National Population Stabilisation Fund, 2011-12, Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, 2006-07 along with Action Taken Memorandum were some of the important Reports that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.

25. During the Session, **599** Starred Questions and **4650** Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these **49** Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up on **21** days due to pandemonium and interruptions in the House over one or the other issue. **7** Short Notice Questions were also taken up during the Session. A Motion under Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha to suspend Question Hour to discuss the Role of CBI in the Coalgate Scam was moved by Dr. V. Maitreyan on 22nd April, 2013. However, due to disruptions of the proceedings, the Motion became infructuous as it could not be taken up during Question Hour.

Highlights of work transacted during the 228th Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		05-02-2013
Duration of the Session		21-02-2013 to 08-05-2013
Number of actual days of sitting		32
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		82 + Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		82+ Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		12+ Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		599
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		49
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		4650
Short Notice Questions		7
Half-an-Hour Discussions		-
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		9
No. of Bills withdrawn		1
No. of Bills passed/returned		14
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee		-
No. of Bills deferred		1
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		10
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		3
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		13
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees		22
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attention		2
No. of Short Duration Discussions		3
No. of Special Mentions		90
No. of Matters raised with permission		37
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		2041