

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 246th SESSION

[18-07-2018 TO 10-08-2018]

1. The 246th Session commenced on Wednesday, the 18th of July, 2018 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 10th of August, 2018.
2. The Session had 17 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 67 hours.
3. During the Session, the House passed 14 Government Bills, *namely*, the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, the National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Bill, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, the National Sports University Bill, the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill and the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill; one Bill, the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was introduced and another Bill, the Armed Forces Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2012 was withdrawn by the Government. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was deferred and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was later referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.
4. A discussion on the Final Draft of the National Register of Citizens in Assam was discussed by dispensing with the Question Hour on the 31st of July, 2018. The discussion was raised by Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition which lasted for more than 1 ½ hours and 19 Members participated in the debate.
5. There were 61 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. 120 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
6. The issue regarding non-implementation of the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2014 was discussed at length for more than 3 ½ hours in the form of a Short Duration Discussion and 24 Members participated in the discussion. However, the issue regarding recent increase in the Minimum Support Prices for *Kharif* crops and challenges in agricultural sector remained inconclusive.

7. The issue regarding misuse of social media platforms to spread rumours and fake news leading to rising incidents of violence and lynching in the country was also taken up in the form of a Calling Attention on which 14 Members sought clarifications.
8. During the session some important papers like Report of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17; Thirtieth Progress Report on the Action taken Pursuant to recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (July, 2018); Statement of Market Borrowings by the Central Government, during the year 2017-18; Annual Report of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), for the year 2017-18, First Annual Report of the National Mission for Clean Ganga for the year 2016-17, Statement of Half Yearly Review of the Trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the Financial year 2017-18, Medium-term Expenditure Framework Statement (August, 2018), Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, Report of National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), New Delhi on the Problems faced by Scheduled Caste students in obtaining Scholarships, for the year 2016, First Annual Report of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2016-17, one sensitive notification and few CAG Reports were some of the important Reports/Papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
9. During the Session, 270 Starred Questions and 2879 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 91 Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up on 1 day due to disruption of the proceedings in protest over Final Draft of National Register for Citizen in Assam. 3 Statements by Ministers correcting answers to questions were also laid on the Table during the Session.
10. Three newly elected Members, *namely*, Shri Elamaram Kareem, Shri Jose K. Mani and Shri Binoy Viswam from the State of Kerala and four Nominated Members, *namely*, Dr. Sonal Mansingh, Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra, Shri Ram Shakal and Shri Rakesh Sinha made and subscribed oath/affirmation in the House on the first day of the Session and joined the House.
11. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of Shri Gopal Das 'Neeraj', noted poet and lyricist, Dr. M. Karunanidhi, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and President of the DMK Party and 13 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
12. The House felicitated Ms. Hima Das for winning Gold Medal in 400-metre event at the IAAF World U-20 Athletics Championship held at Tampere, Finland on 12th of July, 2018. The House also congratulated Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Member and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, former Member and Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha along with Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, Shri Dinesh Trivedi and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Members of the Lok Sabha, who were conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award on the 1st of August, 2018.

13. References to the victims of (a) suicide bomber attack in Afghanistan (b) natural calamities in different parts of the country (c) a bus accident in Pauri District of Uttarakhand were made by the Chair.
14. References on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, the 19th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas and the 76th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement were also made by the Chair during the Session.
15. The House also had the occasion to elect new Deputy Chairman and elected Shri Harivansh as Deputy Chairman on the 9th August, 2018.
16. 50 Statements on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees were laid on the Table of the House.
17. During the Session, 16 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House. One Private Member's Bill, *namely*, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of the article 366) was withdrawn. The discussion on another Bill, *namely*, the Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill, 2017 remained inconclusive. Two issues regarding need to facilitate persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes category of any State for getting benefits of reservation all over the country by amending the Constitution and urging upon conducting of a relevant study on the condition of the widows in the country and necessary steps to be taken up for welfare of them were discussed in the House in the form of Private Members' Resolutions.
18. Some new initiatives were taken during the session are:—
 - (i) Availability of Simultaneous Interpretation facility of the proceedings in all 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution;
 - (ii) Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Rajya Sabha and the Republic of Rwanda for promoting cooperation between the two countries;
 - (iii) Provision of Wi-Fi facility inside the Rajya Sabha Chamber; and
 - (iv) Launch of e-Notice Application to allow Members to submit Parliamentary Notices online from any location.

19. During the Session, more than 27 hours were lost on issues like (a) demand for Special Category Status to the State of Andhra Pradesh (b) issue of unaccounted deposits by Indians in banks in Switzerland (c) reported incidents of lynching in various parts of the country, (d) Final draft of the National Register of Citizen in Assam (e) reported harassment of girls at a Shelter Home in Deoria (Uttar Pradesh), (f) reported detention of Leaders of AITC in Assam, (g) Rafael deal *etc.*
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Highlights of work transacted during the 246th Session – At a glance

Sittings	Date of issue of Summons	29-06-2018
	Duration of the Session	18-07-2018 to 10-08-2018
	Number of actual days of sitting	17
	Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	67 Hrs. +
	Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	27 Hrs. 42 Mts.
	Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	about 3 Hrs.
	Date of prorogation of Session	-
Questions	No. of Starred Questions listed	270
	No. of Starred Questions answered orally	91
	No. of Unstarred Questions answered	2879
	Short Notice Questions	-
	Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
Government Bills	No. of Bills introduced	1
	No. of Bills withdrawn	1
	No. of Bills passed/returned	14
	No. of Bills referred to Select/Joint Committee	1
	No. of Bills deferred	1
Private Members' Business	No. of Bills introduced	16
	No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
	No. of Bills withdrawn/negated	1
	No. of Resolution part discussed	1
	No. of Resolution negated	1
Oath/Affirmation	No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	7
Statements by Ministers	No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	-
	No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	50
Matters of public importance raised	No. of Calling Attentions	1
	No. of Short Duration Discussions	2
	No. of Special Mentions	61
	No. of Matters raised with permission	120
	Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table		1367