

## RAJYA SABHA

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 215<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

[ 12-02-2009 TO 26-02-2009 ]

1. The 215<sup>th</sup> Session commenced on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 with the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament.
2. The Session, had 10 sittings in all and the House sat for about 55 hours. During the Session, about half-an-hour was lost but the House made up the loss of time by dispensing with lunch-recess and sitting late for more than 14 hours to complete the legislative and other important business.
3. During the Session, 5 new Members made and subscribed oath or affirmation and took their seats in the House. I am sure they would make rich and valuable contribution to the House.
4. The House was informed by the Chair about the vacancy caused due to the resignation of Shri C. Ramachandraiah, a sitting Member from the State of Andhra Pradesh.
5. During the Session, we condoled the death of Shri R. Venkataraman, former President and former Chairman, Rajya Sabha and 6 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
6. There were in all 7 **Statements by Ministers** (*either laid or made*), prominent among them related to (a) Follow Up to Mumbai Terrorist Attack (b) Accident due to derailment of 2841 Howrah - Chennai Coromandal Express at Jajpurkeonjhar Road Station of East Coast Railway on the 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 (c) Situation in Sri Lanka (d) National Ganga River Basin Authority (e) Status of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) (f) Expansion of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) to include pension scheme for Widows and Persons with Disabilities (g) Status of implementation of the components of Bharat Nirman relating to the Ministry of Rural Development and 20 statements on status of implementation of the recommendations of the Reports of the various DRPS Committees. These statements provided opportunities to Members to seek further clarifications.
7. As per the Chair's direction, Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Home Affairs, informed the House regarding the matter related misbehaviour of Jharkhand Police with Shri Yashwant Sinha. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs and Finance also informed the House about the developments in Bangladesh.
8. 41 important matters with the permission of Hon'ble Chairman and 63 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance were raised/laid on the Table during the Session.
9. The Chairman, felicitated the three Indians who won the Oscar Award at the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Academy Awards.
10. The Address by the Hon'ble President to both Houses of Parliament was discussed in the form of Motion of Thanks which spread over 2 days and lasted for more than 9 ½ Hours.

11. The Interim Railway and Interim General Budgets for the year 2009-10 were laid on the Table on 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 respectively. The discussions on the Interim Railway Budget and Interim General Budget were spread over three days and lasted for about 12 hours.
12. The House also discussed Interim Budget, 2009-10 alongwith related Appropriation Bills for the State of Jharkhand.
13. 2 Government Bills were introduced in the House. 15 Government Bills were passed out of which 9 were returned to Lok Sabha. (a) The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (b) The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (c) The Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (d) The Prevention of Money-laundering (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (e) The Railway Appropriation Bills (f) The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2009 (g) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2009 (h) The Central Universities Bill, 2009 (i) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009 (j) The Appropriation Bill, 2009 (k) The Finance Bill, 2009 (l) The Jharkhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009 and (m) The Jharkhand Appropriation Bill, 2009 were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session.
14. During the Session, 9 Private Members' Bills were introduced. The discussion on the Voluntary Organizations Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006 moved by Shri Kalraj Mishra, Member remained inconclusive.
15. During the Session, 98 Reports of various Parliamentary Committees including of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were presented or laid on the Table of the House.
16. During the Session, 160 Starred Questions and 1166 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 36 Starred Questions were orally answered and three Statements by Ministers correcting the Answers to Questions were laid on the Table. An "Half-an-Hour Discussion" on 'requirement of wheat for distribution to BPL families' was held on 24-02-2009.

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### Highlights of work transacted during the 215<sup>th</sup> Session - At a glance

<b>Sittings</b>	
Date of issue of Summons	22-01-2009
Duration of the Session	12-02-2009 to 26-02-2009
Number of actual days of sitting	10
Actual Hours of sittings ( <i>excluding recess intervals</i> )	55 Hrs. & 01 Min.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	About half-an-hour.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	14 + Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session	02-03-2009
<b>Questions</b>	
No. of Starred Questions listed	160
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	36
No. of Unstarred Questions listed	1166
<b>Government Bills</b>	
No. of Bills introduced	2

No. of Bills withdrawn	NIL
No. of Bills passed/returned	15
<b>Private Members' Business</b>	
No. of Bills introduced	9
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
No. of Bills withdrawn/negated	1
No. of Resolution part discussed	NIL
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negated	NIL
<b>Oath/Affirmation</b>	
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	5
<b>Statements by Ministers</b>	
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	7
<b>Matters of public importance raised</b>	
No. of Special Mentions	63
No. of Matters raised with permission	41
<b>Papers Laid on the Table</b>	1082 papers

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