

RAJYA SABHA

STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 222ND SESSION

[21-02-2011 TO 25-03-2011]

1. The 222nd Session (Budget Session) commenced on Monday, the 21st February, 2011 with the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament.
2. The Session was scheduled to meet in two parts and adjourn on 21st April, 2011. However, on the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee, the first part of the Session was extended upto 25th March, 2011 and the second part of the Session was cancelled.
3. The Session had 23 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 80 hours. During the Session, about 20 hours were lost on issues like (a) police atrocities on BJP workers at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, (b) recent revelation of a mass grave of Sikhs allegedly killed during the 1984 riots in Haud-Chillar village in District Rewari of Haryana, (c) Telangana and order of the Supreme Court quashing the appointment of CVC, (d) involvement of a Union Minister in Booth allotment scam in Chandigarh, (e) Wikileaks cable regarding 'cash-for-vote' in Confidence Motion, 2008, and (f) Demand for discussion under Rule 176 on the Statement of the Prime Minister on the newspaper report on payment of 'cash-for-votes' issue. 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.
4. In a move to save the Question Hour from being disrupted and lost, the Chairman, after consultation, decided to shift the Question Hour from morning to post lunch session to make it more effective.
5. During the Session, 6 new Ministers [3 Cabinet Ministers, 1 Minister of State (Independent Charge) and 2 Ministers of State] were introduced to the House by the Prime Minister.
6. Shrimati Hema Malini, elected in a bye-election from the State of Karnataka joined the House during the Session.
7. During the Session, the House condoled the death of a sitting Member, *namely* Shri Arjun Singh and adjourned on 7th March as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul. The House also made reference to the passing away of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and 6 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.

8. References to the victims of (a) stampede in Pullumedu near Sabarimala Temple, Kerala; (b) earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand; (c) International Women's Day; and (d) massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan were made by the Chair.
9. The Chair paid tributes to legendary heroes of our Freedom Movement Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdev, who attained martyrdom eighty years ago.
10. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 21st February, 2011. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place on three days and lasted for about 13 hours.
11. The Railway and General Budgets for the year 2011-12 were laid on the Table of the House on the 25th and 28th February, 2011, respectively. The Outcome Budgets of various Ministries were also laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
12. The discussion on the Railway Budget was spread over three days and lasted for more than 7 hours. The discussion on the General Budget was also spread over four days and lasted for more than 12^{1/2} hours.
13. Working of the 4 Ministries, *namely* Minority Affairs, Tribal Affairs, Defence and Civil Aviation were listed for discussion in the House. However, the working of only one Ministry, *namely* the Minority Affairs could be discussed in the House, which lasted for more than 5^{1/2} hours.
14. There were 11 *suo motu* Statements by Prime Minister/Ministers which were either made or laid. Statements relating to (a) setting up of a Joint Parliamentary Committee on 2G Spectrum allocation, (b) appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner, (c) Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan, (d) newspaper report on payment of cash-for-votes were made by the Prime Minister, and Statements relating to (e) efforts by the Ministry of External Affairs to assist Indians during the recent crisis in the Gulf and the Middle East, Indian fishermen apprehended in Sri Lanka and Indian students in the Tri-Valley University in USA, (f) intent of the Government to initiate a national debate on the need to have legislation for the development of sports at the national level and to deal with all matters connected therewith, (g) evacuation of Indian Nationals from Libya, (h) issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia, (i) issues related to Airlines Pilots' Licences, (j) notice issued by the Income Tax Department to the Government of Gujarat, (k) Cancun Agreements were made/laid by other Ministers. Some of these statements provided opportunities to Members to seek clarifications. 17 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.

15. Motion for appointment of a Joint Committee to examine matters relating to allocation and pricing of telecom licences and spectrum was also adopted during the Session.
16. There were about 156 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. During the Zero Hour, about 53 Matters were raised by Members with the permission during the Session.
17. During the Session, 3 Government Bills were introduced, one Government Bill was withdrawn and 10 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The General and Railway Appropriation Bills, National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, Finance Bill, Repatriation of Prisoners (Amendment) Bill, State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, Orissa (Alteration of Name) Bill, Constitution (113th Amendment) Bill, Appropriation (No.2) Bill and the Finance Bill were some of the notable Bills which the House returned/passed.
18. The following 2 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session:-
 - (i) unprecedented and untimely heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh; and
 - (ii) utilization of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.
19. The issues arising out of the statement made by the Prime Minister on the 18th March, 2011 on the newspaper report on payment of 'cash-for-votes' during the Confidence Motion, 2008 was discussed at length for more than 2^{1/2} hours in the form of a Short Duration Discussion.
20. During the Session, 23 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and a Bill regarding need to insert a new Article 371J in the Constitution of India, was discussed at length and finally withdrawn. The issue regarding need for restructuring the proposed Food Security Bill was also discussed inconclusively, through a Private Member's Resolution.
21. During the Session, 100 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.
22. Public Enterprises Survey, 2009-10; Economic Survey, 2010-11, Annual Report on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, Consolidated Report on the Working of Public Sector Banks, Annual Report of the Commission for Women alongwith its ATR were few important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
23. During the Session, 299 Starred Questions and 2325 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 54 Starred Questions were orally answered. Three Short Notice Questions were also taken up during the Session. The Question Hour could not be held on five occasions due to interruptions, etc. in the House.

Highlights of work transacted during the 222nd Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		28-01-2011
Duration of the Session		21-02-2011 to 25-03-2011
Number of actual days of sitting		23
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		80 + Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		About 20 Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		12 + Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		299
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		54
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		2325
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		3
No. of Bills withdrawn		1
No. of Bills passed/returned		10
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee		-
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		23
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		-
No. of Bills withdrawn/negated		1
No. of Resolution part discussed		1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negated		-
Oath/Affirmation		
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation		1
Statements by Ministers		
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers		11
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		2
No. of Short Duration Discussion		1
No. of Special Mentions		156
No. of Matters raised with permission		53
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		1309 papers