

RAJYA SABHA

STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 224TH SESSION

[22-11-2011 TO 29-12-2011]

1. The 224th Session (Winter Session) commenced on Tuesday, the 22nd November, 2011. The Session was scheduled to adjourn *sine-die* on the 21st December, 2011 but comes to an end today, the 29th December, 2011 as the sittings of the House were extended by four days.
2. The Session had 24 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 75 hours. During the Session, more than 56 hours were lost on issues like (a) rise in the prices of essential commodities, (b) black money, (c) Government's decisions on the opening of FDI in Multi-Brand Retail Trading (MBRT), (d) protests against two Cabinet Ministers for their alleged involvement in two different cases, and (e) demand for dismissal of the Governor of Karnataka. The House, however, made up this loss by sitting late for about 10 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. During the Session, 1 new Cabinet Minister was introduced to the House by the Prime Minister.
4. The House was informed of the vacancy caused due to the resignation of Shri Sabir Ali, Member representing the State of Bihar. However, Shri Sabir Ali was re-elected in a bye-election from the State of Bihar and joined the House. Another new Member, *namely*, Shri Pankaj Bora, who was elected in a bye-election from the State of Assam, also joined the House.
5. The House bade farewell to seven retiring Members of Rajya Sabha, whose term of office would expire in the months of January and February, 2012.
6. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of two of its sitting Members *namely*, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda and Shri Silvius Condpan and the House adjourned on the 22nd November, 2011, as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed. The House also made references to the passing away of Shri Bhupen Hazarika, Shri Dev Anand and 3 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
7. The House also made references to the victims of (a) earthquakes in Sikkim and Turkey; (b) flood in Thailand; (c) stampede at Haridwar; (d) fire in Nand Nagri, Delhi and Howrah-Dehradun Doon Express train; (e) assault on Shri Sharad Pawar, Cabinet Minister at New Delhi (f) fire in AMRI Hospital at Dhakuria in Kolkata; (g) 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Parliament Building;

- (h) Golden Jubilee of Goa's Liberation from Colonial Rule; and (i) Tropical Storm Washi which hit Southern Philippines.
8. There were 7 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers relating to (a) latest price situation and inflationary pressures in the economy, (b) incident of fire in Howrah-Dehradun Doon Express, (c) revival, reform and restructuring of the Handloom Sector, (d) Government's decisions on the opening of FDI in Multi-Brand Retail Trading and further liberalization of FDI policy in Single Brand Retail Trading, (e) National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), and (f) comprehensive package for the Handloom Sector. On the Statement regarding United Nation's Climate Change Conference at Durban held from 28th November to 11th December, 2011, Members sought clarifications. 20 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.
 9. The House was also informed about the suspension of the Government's decision to allow 51% FDI in Multi-Brand Retail Trading till a consensus has developed on the issue.
 10. There were 100 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. During the Zero Hour, 20 Matters were raised by Members with the permission of the Chair during the Session.
 11. During the Session, 3 Government Bills were introduced and the introduction of one Bill was deferred. 18 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Amendment Bill, the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, the Appropriation Bills relating to Supplementary Demands for Grants for General and Railways Budgets, the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Bill, the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, the Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Amendment, Bill, the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research Bill, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment), Bill, the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Amendment Bill, the New Delhi Municipal Council (Amendment) Bill, the Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, the Factoring Regulation Bill, and the Constitution (One Hundred and Eleventh Amendment) Bill, 2009 were some of the notable Bills which the House returned/passed. The further consideration of the Commercial Division of High Courts Bill, 2010 was deferred. The motion for consideration and passing of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2011 was moved and the discussion remained inconclusive.

12. The following two issues were discussed for more than 11 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (a) unprecedented rise in the prices of food and other essential commodities and its effects on common man; and
 - (b) present agrarian crisis resulting in suicides by the farmers in the country.
13. During the Session, 32 Bills were listed for introduction and 6 Bills were listed for consideration and passing under Private Members' Legislative Business. However, no Private Members' Business was transacted.
14. During the Session, 9 Private Members' Resolutions were listed for consideration but none could be taken up.
15. During the Session, 78 Reports *including* Report on the Lokpal Bill/Statements of various Parliamentary Committees were presented or laid on the Table of the House.
16. Report of the National Commission for Minorities (2008-2009) along with Action Taken Memorandum on the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Commission; Statement on Domestic Workers Convention (C-189) and Domestic Workers Recommendation (R-201) adopted in the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference of the ILO held in Geneva; Progress Report on the Action Taken Pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam; Mid-Year Analysis of the Indian Economy (2011-12); Annual Accounts of the National Human Rights Commission (2010-11); Annual Report of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (2009-10) along with Action Taken Report on the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Commission; Annual Report of the UPSC (2010-11); Annual Report of the Central Information Commission (2010-11); and Annual Statement on the pending Reports of the Law Commission of India, were few of the important Reports/papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
17. The proceedings during the Question Hour were disrupted on 11 days and Questions could not be taken up for oral answers on those days. However, 420 Starred Questions and 3255 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 47 Starred Questions were orally answered. 7 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion and 13 notices of Short Notice Question were received, but only 2 Short Notice Questions were taken up during the Session.

Highlights of work transacted during the 224th Session – At a glance

Sittings	Date of issue of Summons	03-11-2011
	Duration of the Session	22-11-2011 to 29-12-2011
	Number of actual days of sitting	24
	Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	75+ Hrs.
	Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	56+ Hrs.
	Time made up by late sittings	About 10 Hrs.
	Date of prorogation of Session	-
Questions	No. of Starred Questions listed	420
	No. of Starred Questions answered orally	47
	No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3255
Government Bills	No. of Bills introduced	3
	No. of Bills withdrawn	-
	No. of Bills passed/returned	18
	No. of Bills referred to Select Committee	-
	No. of Bills deferred	2
Private Members' Business	No. of Bills introduced	-
	No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	-
	No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	-
	No. of Resolution part discussed	-
	No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived	-
Oath/Affirmation	No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	2
Statements by Ministers	No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	7
	No. of Statements laid by Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	20
Matters of public importance raised	No. of Calling Attentions	-
	No. of Short Duration Discussions	2
	No. of Special Mentions	100
	No. of Matters raised with permission	20
	Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table		1795 papers