

RAJYA SABHA

STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 226TH SESSION

[08-08-2012 TO 07-09-2012]

1. The 226th Session (Monsoon Session) commenced on Wednesday, the 8th August, 2012. The Session, as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 7th September, 2012.
2. The sitting fixed for 29.08.2012 was cancelled on account of 'Onam' festival. The Session had 19 sittings and the House sat for about 29 hours. During the Session, about 62 hours were lost on issues like (a) ethnic violence in Assam and attacks on migrants from North-east Region, (b) CAG report on allocation of coal blocks and augmentation of coal production, (c) reservation in promotion for SCs/STs in Government jobs, (d) black money, and (e) training of Sri Lankan Army by India.
3. Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of various parties/groups in Rajya Sabha offered felicitations to the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 13th of August, 2012, after his re-election as Vice-President of India.
4. During the Session, the Chairman, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Leaders of various parties/groups in Rajya Sabha also felicitated Prof. P.J. Kurien on his unanimous election as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on the 21st of August, 2012.
5. The Chairman informed the House about the retirement of Dr. V. K. Agnihotri as Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and expressed appreciation for the distinguished services rendered by him to Rajya Sabha.
6. The House offered felicitations to Indian Sportspersons for winning medals at London Olympics, 2012 and also congratulated the Indian Cricket team for winning the Under-19 One Day International Cricket World Cup, held in Australia on the 26th of August, 2012.
7. One new Member elected in Bye-election from the State of Uttar Pradesh made and subscribed oath and took his seat in the House.
8. The House was also informed about the nomination/re-nomination of Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairman, Rajya Sabha.
9. During the Session, the House condoled the death of Shri Vilasrao Dagadojirao Deshmukh, sitting Member and a Union Cabinet Minister. The House also condoled the death of Shri Rajesh Khanna, Captain Lakshmi Sehgal and 8 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.

10. References to the victims of (a) floods and landslides and ethnic violence in Assam; (b) casualties in Amarnath Yatra, 2012; (c) road accident in Haryana; (d) fire in Tamil Nadu Express; (e) cloudburst and flash floods in Uttarakhand; (f) shooting incident in a Gurudwara in US; (g) earthquake in Iran; and (h) fire in a fireworks unit at Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu were made by the Chair.
11. The Chair also made references on the 70th Anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' and the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the first Chairman of Rajya Sabha and former President of India.
12. The issue regarding attacks on migrants from North-East region in different parts of the country was discussed at length by dispensing with the Question Hour on the 17th of August, 2012. Thereafter, the House adopted a Resolution unanimously assuring the people of the North East that they are safe anywhere in the country, asking them not to panic on rumours and urging them to go back to their places of work and study.
13. A statement regarding performance audit report on allocation of Coal Blocks and augmentation of coal production, was made, amidst din, by the Prime Minister in the light of CAG report on 27th of August, 2012. 23 statements were 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.
14. There were about 72 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. About 11 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
15. Government Legislative and other important business could not be transacted due to continuous interruptions in the House over the CAG report on allocation of Coal Blocks and augmentation of coal production. However, two Government Bills *namely*, the Armed Forces Tribunal (Amendment) Bill and the Constitution (117th Amendment) Bill were introduced and only 3 Government Bills (i) the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Bill (ii) the National Institute of Mental Health, Neuro Sciences Bill and (iii) the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill were passed during the Session. However, the discussion on the Whistle Blowers Protection Bill remained inconclusive.
16. The following 4 matters of Urgent Public Importance were taken up/discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session :-
 - (i) inadequate facilities and safety measures along the Amarnath Yatra route resulting in death of pilgrims;
 - (ii) removal of uterus of females of Below Poverty Line in Bihar and various parts of the country under NRHM programme;
 - (iii) casualties during Clinical trials in the country; and
 - (iv) repeated attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy.

17. The issue regarding recent incidents of communal violence in Assam was discussed at length for about 4 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussion.
18. The issue regarding need to create a separate State of Telangana was discussed through a Private Members' Resolution. The discussion on another issue regarding need to scrap the "Meat Export Policy" remained inconclusive.
19. During the Session, 11 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and the issues regarding (a) prohibition and eradication of Ragging; and (b) need to amend the Indian Penal Code, were discussed at length through two Private Members' Bills.
20. During the Session, 74 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.
21. Progress Report on the Action Taken Report on the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam, Report of the National Human Rights Commission along with an Action Taken Memorandum, Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes along with an Action Taken Memorandum, Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, Annual Reports of the Organizing Committee of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Report of the Justice M. B. Shah Commission of Inquiry for Illegal Mining of Iron Ore and Manganese in the State of Goa along with an Action Taken Memorandum, Statement on the Medium-term Expenditure Framework, and Statement on Quarterly review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget were some of the important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
22. The Question Hour could not be conducted on almost all days *except* one day on the 14th of August, 2012 due to pandemonium and interruptions in the House over the CAG report on allocation of Coal Blocks and augmentation of coal production and some other issues. During the Session, 399 Starred Questions and 3100 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these only 11 Starred Questions were orally answered. Answers to 8 Short Notice Questions were also laid on the Table during the Session.

Highlights of work transacted during the 226th Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		19-07-2012
Duration of the Session		08-08-2012 to 07-09-2012
Number of actual days of sitting		19
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		About 29 Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		About 62 Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		About 2 Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		399
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		11
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		3100
Short Notice Questions		8
Half-an-Hour Discussions		--
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		2
No. of Bills withdrawn		-
No. of Bills passed/returned		3
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee		--
No. of Bills deferred		--
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		11
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		--
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived		2
No. of Resolution part discussed		1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived		1
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		1
No. of Statements laid regarding Reports of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees		23
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		4
No. of Short Duration Discussions		1
No. of Special Mentions		72
No. of Matters raised with permission		11
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		981