

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 232ND SESSION

[07-07-2014 TO 14-08-2014]

1. The 232nd Session commenced on Monday, the 7th July, 2014 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 14th August, 2014.
2. The Session had 27 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 142 hours. During the Session, about 34 hours were lost on issues like (a) leakage of Railway Budget in the media before presentation in the House, (b) destruction of files in the Ministry of Home Affairs including the files relating to records of Cabinet meeting held after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, (c) meeting of Shri Ved Pratap Vaidik, a journalist with Hafiz Saeed recently in Pakistan, (d) demand by opposition Members to discuss the unprecedented spurt in violence in Gaza and West bank of Palestine and Government's request to postpone the same, (e) reported allegation by Shri Markandeya Katju, former Supreme Court Judge about corruption and political intervention in judiciary and political intervention during UPA regime, (f) issue relating to the changed format of Civil Services Examination conducted by UPSC, (g) demand for an enquiry into the reported incident of bugging at the residence of a Union Minister, (h) derogatory article about the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Prime Minister of India posted on Sri Lankan Govt's Defence Minister website, (i) Government's decision to increase FDI in Railways and Defence without taking Parliament into confidence, (j) relief measures for flood affected people of Odisha, (k) comments about dress of women by a Member in Lok Sabha, and (l) inconsistencies in Government's statements on WTO. The House, however, made up this loss by skipping lunch recess and sitting late for more than 39 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. 17 newly elected/re-elected Members in the biennial/bye elections from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh joined the House during the Session.
4. The Prime Minister introduced one Minister of State to the House.
5. The Chair informed the House about the re-constitution of the Panel of Vice-Chairmen of Rajya Sabha.

6. The Chairman gave rulings on (i) notices of alleged Breach of Privilege on account of leakage of portions of the Railway Budget (2014-15) in a newspaper on July 8, 2014, the day on which it was laid in the House; (ii) rejecting the request of the Government to withdraw an item (Short Duration Discussion) from the List of Business; and (iii) why Short Duration Discussion listed in the List of Business on 16th July, 2014 had not been listed in the List of Business of 17th July, 2014.
7. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of Dr. Shanti G. Patel and Shri Ekanath K. Thakur, former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
8. References to the victims of (a) Malaysian plane crash; (b) school bus-train accident in Telangana; (c) landslide in Pune district of Maharashtra and (d) homage to the martyrs of 'Quit India Movement' were made by the Chair.
9. The Chair also offered felicitations to the (a) scientists, engineers, technicians & all others of ISRO associated with the successful launch of PSLV C-23 and (b) Indian sports contingent for their performance in the Commonwealth Games, 2014 held in Glasgow, Scotland.
10. The Railway and General Budgets for the year 2014-15 were laid on the Table of the House on the 8th and 10th July, 2014, respectively. The Budget (NCT of Delhi), 2014-15 and Outcome Budgets of various Ministries were also laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
11. The discussion on the Railway Budget and related Appropriation Bills spread over two days, lasted for more than 11^{1/2} hours. The discussion on the General Budget and related Appropriation Bills was also spread over two days and lasted for more than 14 hours. The Budget for the National Capital Territory of Delhi for 2014-15 and the related Appropriation Bill was also discussed.
12. Working of 3 Ministries *namely*, Power, Home Affairs and Women and Child Development were discussed in the House. Members from various political parties/groups participated in the discussions which lasted for more than 22 hours.
13. There were 13 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) alleged destruction of more than 1.5 lakh files in the Ministry of Home Affairs (b) meeting of Shri Ved Pratap Vaidik, a journalist with Hafiz Saeed in Pakistan (c) issue related to a format of Civil Services Examination conducted by UPSC (d) ratification of Nagoya Protocol during India's Presidency of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (e) Doctor-Pathological laboratory/Diagnostic centres

collusion defrauding the patient/consumer as revealed through sting operation titled “Operation Jonk” aired by News Nation TV channel on 21st July, 2014 (f) Hon’ble Prime Minister’s visit to BRICS Summit, (g) accident at unmanned level crossing on South Central Railway, (h) incidents occurred on 17th July, 2014 in New Maharashtra Sadan, New Delhi, (i) disaster caused by landslide in Pune district of Maharashtra, (j) India’s stand in the WTO (k) visit of Prime Minister to Nepal on 3 - 4 August, 2014, and (l) Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa and the steps being taken by Government of India to protect our citizens from the same. Some of these statements provided opportunities to Members to seek clarifications from the Ministers concerned. 27 statements were also laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.

14. There were 212 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. About 68 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
15. One Government Bill was withdrawn and one Government Bill was referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha. 12 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The General and Railways Appropriations Bills, the Finance (No.2) Bill, the National Institute of Design Bill, Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Constitution (121st) Amendment Bill and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Bill, 2014 were some of the notable Bills which the House passed/returned during the Session.
16. The following 2 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session :-
 - (i) Pollution on sea beaches in Goa caused by tar balls formed due to discharge from sea vessels; and
 - (ii) Plight of stranded workers from India in Iraq and Government’s response thereto.
17. The following issues were discussed at length for more than 12 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (i) deficient rainfall, prevailing drought conditions and plight of farmers in various parts of the country;
 - (ii) unprecedented spurt in violence in Gaza and West Bank area of Palestine causing death of scores of civilians;
 - (iii) natural calamities occurring in various parts of the country and relief measures taken by the Government; and

- (iv) Situation arising from reported attempts to curb the independence of media and restrict the freedom of expression.

Besides, a discussion on the price rise and food inflation was also held by dispensing with the Question Hour on the 7th July, 2014, which lasted for 3^{1/2} hours.

18. The issues regarding (a) need to bring Public Private Projects (PPP) and projects involving rare natural resources, etc. under the purview of Lokpal, (b) continuous shortage of power and its adverse impact on the economic development of the country and (c) agrarian crisis and suicides by the farmers of Vidarbha region were discussed at length through Private Members' Resolutions.
19. During the Session, 20 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 6 Private Members' Bills *namely* (a) the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (Amendment of Article 124); (b) the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Amendment Bill, 2012; (c) the Acts of Parliament (Application to Nagaland) Bill, 2010; (d) the Endosulfan Pesticide (Prohibition) Bill, 2011, (e) the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2013, and (f) the Compulsory Military Training Bill, 2012 were discussed at length.
20. Economic Survey, 2013-14, Report of the National Human Rights Commission along with an ATR, Progress Report on the Action taken Pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam, Annual Assessment Report of the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2011-12, Report of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) for 2011-12, Annual Report of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), for 2010-11 and 2011-12 along with ATRs, Report of the Law Commission of India on Electoral Disqualifications, Special Report on the Scheduled Castes on non-implementation of reservation policy in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reports of the Justice M.B. Shah Commission of Enquiry for Illegal Mining of Iron Ore and Manganese in Jharkhand, Odisha and Goa along with ATRs, Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities and Report of the Central Vigilance Commission for the year 2013 were some of the important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
21. During the Session, 540 Starred Questions and 3937 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 81 Starred Questions were orally answered.

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Highlights of work transacted during the 232nd Session – At a glance

Sittings	Date of issue of Summons	24-06-2014
	Duration of the Session	07-07-2014 to 14-08-2014
	Number of actual days of sitting	27
	Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	142+ Hrs.
	Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	About 34 Hrs.
	Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	39+ Hrs.
	Date of prorogation of Session	14-08-2014
Questions	No. of Starred Questions listed	540
	No. of Starred Questions answered orally	81
	No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3937
	Short Notice Questions	1
	Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
Government Bills	No. of Bills introduced	-
	No. of Bills withdrawn	1
	No. of Bills passed/returned	12
	No. of Bills referred to Select Committee	1
	No. of Bills deferred	-
Private Members' Business	No. of Bills introduced	20
	No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
	No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	5
	No. of Resolution part discussed	1
	No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived	2
Oath/Affirmation	No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	17
Statements by Ministers	No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	13
	No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	27
Matters of public importance raised	No. of Calling Attentions	2
	No. of Short Duration Discussions	4
	No. of Special Mentions	212
	No. of Matters raised with permission	68
	Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table		1688

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