

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 233rd SESSION

[24-11-2014 TO 23-12-2014]

1. The 233rd Session commenced on Monday, the 24th November, 2014 and as scheduled, it comes to a close today, the 23rd December, 2014.
2. The Session had 22 sittings in all. It sat for more than 76 hours. During the Session, more than 62 hours were lost on issues like (a) re-naming of the Rajiv Gandhi Airport in Hyderabad, (b) attack on newspaper reporters, (c) bringing back black money to the country, (d) fall in the procurement price of paddy and cotton, (e) reported figuring of the name of a BJP party functionary in the Red (Hawala) diary of Sahara Chief, (f) derogatory speech made by a Union Minister at a poll rally in Delhi, (g) opposition to the withdrawal of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, (h) mass religious conversion of people in some parts of Uttar Pradesh, (i) celebration of Nathuram Godse's death anniversary as 'Shourya Divas', (j) objectionable question relating to the disqualification of Chief Minister (Ms. J. Jayalalitha) of Tamil Nadu in the Railway Recruitment Board Examination, (k) use of CBI for political vendetta, (l) Government's move to celebrate 'Good Governance Day' on Christmas Day without giving Holiday to schools, (m) non-fulfillment of Government's promise to bring back black money and provide employment opportunities, and (n) lathi charge on the Janata Parivar Rally in New Delhi on 22.12.2014. The House, however, sat late for about 8 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. 14 newly elected/re-elected Members in the biennial/bye elections from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana joined the House during the Session.
4. The House unanimously adopted a Resolution expressing its grave concern at the numerous delays in the prosecution of an accused conspirator in the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on 26th November, 2008, calling upon the Government of Pakistan to appeal against his bail and urging upon the Indian Government to take appropriate steps to bring this matter to a logical conclusion.
5. The Chair informed the House about the two vacancies caused by the resignation of two Members of Rajya Sabha from the State of Haryana.
6. The Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister, introduced 18 Ministers to the House.

7. The House offered good wishes to 10 retiring Members from the State of Uttar Pradesh, whose term of office expired on 25.11.2014 and to 4 Members from the State of Jammu and Kashmir, who will retire on the expiration of their term of office on 10.02.2015 and 15.02.2015.
8. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of Shri B.K.S.Iyenger, renowned yoga exponent, Mr. Michael Chilufya Sata, President of the Republic of Zambia, Shri Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, Shri Murli Deora, sitting Member and eight former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
9. References to (a) floods in Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country during September, 2014; (b) Cyclone 'Hudhud' which struck Andhra Pradesh and Odisha; (c) the ambush by Maoists on security forces in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh (d) terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir, (e) adoption of a Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly declaring June 21 as the International Yoga Day (f) terrorist attack on school children in Pakistan and on the Anniversary of the (g) terrorist attack in Mumbai; (h) Bhopal Gas tragedy; (i) Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and (j) Terrorist attack on the Parliament Building in December, 2001 were made by the Chair.
10. Felicitations to (a) the Indian sports contingent for their performance at Asian Games (2014), Incheon, South Korea; (b) the scientists and technicians of ISRO for the successful Mars Mission; (c) Shri Kailash Satyarthi for winning Nobel Peace Prize, 2014; (d) Visually impaired Indian Cricket Team for winning the Fourth Cricket World Cup for the blind; (e) the Scientists, Engineers and Technicians of ISRO for the successful launch of GSLV MK- III and (f) Indian Men and Women Kabbadi Teams for winning the respective World Cups, were offered by the Chair.
11. The adoption of the 13th Report of the Rules Committee on the 26th November, 2014 *inter-alia* recommending the change in the timing of Question Hour in Rajya Sabha and extension of its hours of sitting by one hour *w.e.f.* from the Winter (233rd) Session.
12. There were 8 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) India's stand in WTO (b) incident in District Sukma, Chhattisgarh, which happened on 1st December, 2014 (c) Prime Minister's recent visits abroad (d) incident which occurred on 4.12.2014 at unmanned level crossing on North Eastern Railway (e) incident of sexual assault on a woman by a cab driver in Delhi (f) Adoption of June 21 as the International Yoga Day by 69th Session of United Nations General Assembly, (g) arrest of a youth running Twitter handle on behalf of ISIS, and (h) Sydney hostage crisis and Peshawar terrorist attack. Some of these statements provided opportunities to Members to seek clarifications from the

Ministers concerned. 21 statements were also laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.

13. During the Session, 134 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.
14. There were 94 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. About 69 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
15. 6 Government Bills were withdrawn and one Government Bill was introduced. 2 Government Bills were referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha and 12 Government Bills were passed/returned during the Session. The Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by certain Establishments) Amendment Bill, the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bills, the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill, the Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, the School of Planning and Architecture Bill, the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, were some of the notable Bills which the House passed during the Session.
16. One matter of Urgent Public Importance regarding reported move of the Government to introduce changes in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) by reducing the wage component of the fund allocation and restricting the areas of work, was discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session.
17. The following issues were discussed at length for more than 9 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (i) money held in foreign bank accounts by Indian citizens and business entities in violation of law;
 - (ii) prevailing agrarian crisis in the country
18. One Member, *namely*, Shri V. Hanumantha Rao belonging to the Indian National Congress was directed by the Chair to withdraw from the House on the 17th December, 2014, for willfully obstructing the proceedings of the House by coming into the well of the House and shouting slogans.

19. During the Session, 31 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 2 Private Members' Bills *namely*, (a) the Compulsory Military Training Bill, 2012; (b) the Fertilizer (Price Control) Bill, 2013 were discussed at length and the discussion on one Private Member's Bill, *namely*, the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2013 remained inconclusive.
20. The issues regarding agrarian crisis and suicides by the farmers in Vidharba region, need to declare Tamil language as the national official language and celebration of Thiruvalluvar's Birthday as National Language Day and need to review the Guidelines of the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana were discussed through Private Members' Resolutions.
21. Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Reservation in Judiciary, Annual Statement on Pending Law Commission Reports (December, 2014), Reports of the Law Commission of India, Quarterly review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (December, 2014), Annual Report of the Union Public Commission, Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on Reservation in Promotion, Statement on the quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget at the end of first Quarter of the financial year 2014-15, Statement on the review of the Economy and Budget for the Mid-year of the financial year 2014-15 (Mid-Year Economic Analysis 2014-15), Report of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and Statement on Medium-term Expenditure Framework, December, 2014 were some of the important papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
22. During the Session, 380 Starred Questions and 3470 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 48 Starred Questions were orally answered. 3 Short Notice Questions were also orally answered during the Session. Question Hour, however, could not be taken up on 14 days due to pandemonium and interruptions in the House over one issue or the other.

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Highlights of work transacted during the 233rd Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		29-10-2014
Duration of the Session		24-11-2014 to 23-12-2014
Number of actual days of sitting		22
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		76 Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		62 Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		About 8 Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		380
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		48
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		3470
Short Notice Questions		3
Half-an-Hour Discussions		-
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		1
No. of Bills withdrawn		6
No. of Bills passed/returned		12
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee		2
No. of Bills deferred		-
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		31
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		1
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived		2
No. of Resolution part discussed		1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived		2
Oath/Affirmation		
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation		14
Statements by Ministers		
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers		8
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees		21
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		1
No. of Short Duration Discussions		2
No. of Special Mentions		94
No. of Matters raised with permission		69
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		1818

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