

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 237TH SESSION

[26-11-2015 TO 23-12-2015]

1. The 237th Session commenced on Thursday, the 26th of November, 2015 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 23rd of December, 2015.
2. The Rajya Sabha, in a tribute to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, had a discussion on Commitment to India's Constitution as part of the 125th Birth Anniversary celebration of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on the 27th, 30th November and 1st December, 2015.
3. The House unanimously adopted a Resolution, reaffirming its commitment to the principles and ideals of the Constitution, at the end of the debate which lasted for more than 17 hours.
4. The Session had 20 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 59 hours. During the Session, more than 47 hours were lost on issues like (a) Kumari Selja's remark about being asked about her caste at a temple in Gujarat, (b) alleged anti-Dalit remarks of Union Minister General (Retd.) V.K. Singh, (c) RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's reported comments on Ram temple in Ayodhya, (d) Summons by the Delhi High Court to top functionaries of INC party in the National Herald case, (e) opposition to the multi-purpose Polavaram irrigation project, (f) atrocities on dalits in Punjab, (g) role of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in summoning the Assembly without the approval of the State cabinet, and (h) alleged irregularities in the functioning of DDCA and demand for resignation of Minister of Finance.
5. 2 Members, *namely* Shri N. Gokulakrishnan and Shri Narendera Kumar Swain, elected from the Union Territory of Puducherry and State of Odisha respectively, joined the House during the Session.
6. The Chair made references to the passing away of Shri Khekiho Zhimomi, sitting Member and 6 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
7. The Chair offered felicitations to the Scientists, Engineers and Technicians of ISRO for the successful launch of Astrosat, GSAT-6, GSAT-15 and six earth-observation satellites in space.
8. References to the victims of (a) torrential rains in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other adjoining regions of the southern part of the country; (b) terrorist attacks in several countries and crash of a Russian plane over Egypt; and (c) BSF aircraft crash in New Delhi, were made by the Chair. References were also made on the Anniversary of the (a) Bhopal Gas tragedy; (b) Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and (c) Terrorist attack on the Parliament Building in December, 2001.

9. 3 Statements were made by Ministers on the (i) visit of Minister of External Affairs to Islamabad and recent developments relating to ties between India and Pakistan (ii) important decisions arrived at in the Conference of Parties (CoP-21) held from 30th November to 12th December, 2015 at Paris (France) under the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change and (iii) India's stand in WTO. 27 Statements were also laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
10. The following issues were discussed at length for more than 10 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (i) damage caused due to North-East monsoon rain and floods in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;
 - (ii) situation in Nepal and the state of Indo-Nepal relations; and
 - (iii) serious situation arising due to floods and drought in the country.
11. 2 Government Bills were withdrawn and 1 Government Bill was introduced. 9 Government Bills, *namely*, the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, the Appropriation Bills, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Bill, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, the Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, were passed/returned. The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013 was referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015, was referred to Joint Committee of both the Houses.
12. During the Session, 25 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 2 Private Members' Bills *namely* (a) the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2014 and (b) the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014; were discussed at length.
13. No Private Member's Resolution could be discussed. However, as suggested by some Members and as agreed to by the House, it was decided to take up all the Private Members' Resolutions listed in the Revised List of Business for Friday, the 11th December, 2015 during the next Session.
14. During the Session, 127 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.
15. There were 132 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. 29 Members raised 41 matters with the permission of the Chair.

16. Report of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Reports of the Law Commission, Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, Report of the Competition Commission of India, Report of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Minister, Report of the National Commission for Women, Report of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation were some of the important Reports/Papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
 17. During the Session, 269 Starred Questions and 2879 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these, only 27 Starred Questions were orally answered.
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Highlights of work transacted during the 237th Session – At a glance

Sittings	
Date of issue of Summons	11-11-2015
Duration of the Session	26-11-2015 to 23-12-2015
Number of actual days of sitting	20
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	59+ Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	47+ Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	5+ Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session	-
Questions	
No. of Starred Questions listed	269
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	27
No. of Unstarred Questions answered	2879
Short Notice Questions	-
Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
Government Bills	
No. of Bills introduced	1
No. of Bills withdrawn	3
No. of Bills passed/returned	9
No. of Bills referred to Joint/Select Committee	2
No. of Bills deferred	-
Private Members' Business	
No. of Bills introduced	25
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	1
No. of Bills passed	-
No. of Bills on which debate adjourned	-
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	3
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 Attention	-
No. of Short Duration Discussions	3
No. of Special Mentions	132
No. of Matters raised with permission	41
Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table	1691