

RAJYA SABHA
VALEDICTORY REMARKS – 225th Session
(22 May, 2012)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, the 225th Session of Rajya Sabha comes to a close today. During this Session, the House bade farewell to 58 Members including Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman. 61 new Members, including two nominated Members, joined the House during the Session. An orientation programme for the new Members was also organized.

One of our esteemed sitting Member, Shri B. B. Tiwari passed away on 25 April, 2012. After condoling his death, the House adjourned for the day as a mark of respect.

The Hon'ble President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on 12 March, 2012, which was followed by a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

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The Railway and the General Budgets, including the Appropriation Bills and the Finance Bill, for the year 2012-13 were discussed and returned during this Session. In all, 22 Government Bills were passed/ returned during the Session. Working of 3 Ministries was discussed. Short Duration Discussions on three issues, including the issue of Reservation for SCs and STs in Promotions during Service, Problem of Foodgrains Storage in the country and normalization of relations with Pakistan and issues relating to Human Rights Violations in Pakistan were taken up. In addition, two Calling Attention notices were also taken up.

A unique feature of this Session was discussion on two Statutory Motions, a device which was used after a very long time. Similarly, 12 Short Notice Questions and 2 Half-an-Hour Discussions were also taken up. This is indicative of the alertness of the Members in using various parliamentary devices.

A large number of Special Mentions were made and several very significant matters were raised with the permission of the Chair.

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I have asked the Secretary-General to make available the statistical information relating to the Session.

I am glad to report that during this Session the House has worked to its optimal capacity. Some time was lost in disruptions; many Starred Questions could not be taken up. We do need to introspect on the distinction between dissent, remonstrance, agitation & disruption.

I take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of various parties and groups and the Hon'ble Members for the cooperation extended by them in the overall functioning of the House.

I also thank the then Deputy Chairman, the Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen and the officers and staff of the Secretariat for their help and cooperation.