

RAJYA SABHA
VALEDICTORY REMARKS – 235th Session
(13.5.2015)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, the 235th session of the Rajya Sabha, that commenced on April 23, 2015, comes to a close today. The House had 13 sittings during which it deliberated for more than 73 hours. I am requesting the Secretary General to make available the statistical data relating to the work done in this period.

The House welcomed 3 Members from the State of Kerala and bid a warm and touching farewell to 2 Members from the same State.

The legislative activity in the session was indicative of considerable vigour. Twelve Government Bills including 1 Constitutional Amendment Bill were passed and returned. In addition, and after a gap of 36 years, a Private Members' Bill aimed at promoting the rights of transgender persons, was also passed.

The legislative process also demonstrated the desirability of careful deliberation through available instrumentalities, and the benefits accruing from it.

Apart from the Government business transacted, the session showed a distinct improvement in the articulation of individual Members' concern on matters of urgent interest. This was facilitated by rescheduling of the daily business in the forenoon. As a result 42 Members availed of the opportunity of expressing their views in the 'Zero Hour'.

The Question Hour functioned on 8 of the 13 days and 48 Questions were answered. At present only 5 to 6 of the balloted starred Questions for the sitting are answered orally. This number can be increased if both the Members and the Ministers adopt the practice of short, crisp, and focused questions and answers. The Chair would urge all to explore this option.

Executive accountability was also sought through 4 Calling Attention Notices. The eager participation of Members and the demand for more such opportunities,

underlines the need for more time being made available. This would be possible only if the duration of sessions is longer, as was the practice many years back.

The House decided to examine the working of the Ministries of Law & Justice, Social Justice & Empowerment, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and External Affairs during the session. Constraints of time, however, allowed only one of these to be taken up.

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

The National Song, ("Vande Mataram" to be played.)

MR. CHAIRMAN :The House stands adjourned *sine die*.
