

RAJYA SABHA
VALEDICTORY REMARKS – 239th Session
(13-05-2016)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, the 239th Session of the Rajya Sabha, that commenced on April 25, 2016, comes to a close today. The House had 15 sittings during which it deliberated for more than 69 hours. The 239th Session has been a short and challenging one. Members have shown an extraordinary ability to debate and dissent, to accommodate and differ amidst their political compulsions and ideological positions. A variety of issues and subjects have been taken up and the instruments of parliamentary procedures utilized with skill and determination.

The House welcomed 13 newly elected/re-elected Members from the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Nagaland, Punjab and Tripura and 6 newly nominated Members and bid farewell to 53 Members whose term of office would expire in the months of June and July, 2016.

Transacting its main task of legislative business, the House during the Session passed or returned **12** Government Bills, which demonstrated the desirability of careful deliberation through available instrumentalities, and the benefits accruing from it.

Apart from the Government legislative business transacted, individual Members are utilizing in greater measure the Zero Hour and Question Hour. During the Session, 80 Zero Hour submissions were made; 225 Starred Questions and 2391 Unstarred Questions were answered. Of these, 61 were orally answered and another 227 Supplementaries were also raised. Besides, Members expressed their concern on matters of urgent public interest through 37 Special Mentions. Private Members introduced 6 Bills and some important issues were discussed through Bills and Resolutions.

Transacting its deliberative function, the House discussed two Short Duration Discussions on drought and the Agusta Westland Chopper deal. About 40 Members participated in these discussions. In addition, during two Calling Attentions, about 20 Members sought clarifications.

The House witnessed lively debate during the discussion on the working of Ministries of Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

Notwithstanding the fact that a good amount of both Legislative and non-legislative work was transacted, the proceedings of the House were occasionally disrupted.

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

I take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, 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*.
