

RAJYA SABHA
VALEDICTORY REMARKS - 240th Session
(12 August, 2016)

MR. CHAIRMAN : On 18th of July, 240th Session commenced with high expectations. I am glad that the Session was highly productive. There were debates of national concern and discussion on many subjects. Various procedural devices were effectively used to raise issues, reflect public sentiments and legislate through constructive debate.

The House had 20 sittings during which it deliberated for more than 112 hours.

During this Session, 59 elected, re-elected and nominated Members joined the House.

Some interesting facets have emerged in this Session. While 300 Starred Questions were raised, 333 Supplementaries were also taken up. It is very heartening to note that almost all parties got opportunities to raise Supplementaries and participate in the Question Hour.

Apart from the Questions, individual Members raised urgent public issues during the Zero Hour. During the Session, 123 Zero Hour submissions were made of which 21 were instantly responded to by the Ministers. Besides, Members also expressed their concerns on matters of public interest through 91 Special Mentions.

In all, 14 Government Bills pertaining to Ministries of Finance, Labour & Employment, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Health & Family Welfare, Human Resource & Development, Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Social Justice and Empowerment, Science and Technology were passed. The House held an animated debate while considering and passing the Constitution One Hundred Twenty Second (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

The incidents of violence in Kashmir Valley engaged the undivided attention of the House. The debates took ten hours of the House in two separate days. The House passed a unanimous Resolution on prevailing situation in Kashmir Valley; it earnestly appealed to all sections of the society in Jammu & Kashmir, to work for the early restoration of normalcy and harmony and unanimously resolved to restore the confidence among the people in general and youth in particular.

Issues regarding atrocities on Dalits, price rise, status of implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, role of Governors in the light of developments that took place in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh and Draft National Education Policy were deliberated in the form of Short Duration Discussions. By common consent, the quality of debates was of a high order.

During the Session, the Members got opportunities to seek clarifications on Five Calling Attentions on matters of public importance and also on Statements made by Ministers regarding missing Indian Air Force operated AN-32 courier and the Home Minister's visit to Pakistan to attend the 7th Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home.

14 Private Members' Bills were introduced and some important issues were discussed through Bills and Resolutions initiated by some of the Hon'ble Members of this House.

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

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*.
