

RAJYA SABHA
VALEDICTORY REMARKS – 242nd Session
(12-04-2017)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, the 242nd Session of the Rajya Sabha, that commenced on January 31, 2017, comes to a close today. The House had 29 sittings during which it deliberated for more than 136 hours.

The Session which began with the Address of the Hon'ble President to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 31, 2017 witnessed transaction of substantial Legislative Business. In all, the House either passed or returned 14 Government Bills which generated lively debates. The Union Budget, 2017-18 and the working of the Ministry of Railways and GST Bills were discussed at length.

Members zeal to raise matters of urgent public importance with concern and passion is manifested in 205 Zero Hour submissions and 76 Special Mentions they made and in the 435 Starred Questions with more than 535 supplementaries and 4629 Unstarred Questions raised by them.

The participation of the members occupying the last two rows in using these devices has been remarkable. Out of a total of 205 Zero Hour submissions, they raised 86 which is approximately 42 per cent. Similarly, they asked about 260 supplementaries which is about 48 per cent of the total supplementaries asked.

Private Members introduced 33 Bills. Many important issues were discussed through Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. The issues relating to electoral reforms and Aadhaar saw animated debates in the form of Short Duration Discussions.

While a new Member elected in a bye-election from the State of West Bengal joined the House, we lost one esteemed sitting Member, Haji Abdul Salam who passed away on the 28th February, 2017.

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*.
