

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**VALEDICTORY REMARKS – 243<sup>rd</sup> Session**  
**(11-08-2017)**

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Hon'ble Members, the 243<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Rajya Sabha, which commenced on July 17, 2017, comes to a close today. The House had 19 sittings during which it deliberated for more than 80 hours. Overall, the Session was productive with debates on various topics of national concern laced with occasional disruptions.

The House welcomed two Members from the States of Goa and Madhya Pradesh and bid a warm and touching farewell to 10 Members from the States of Goa, Gujarat and West Bengal. The House also bid an emotional farewell to Shri M. Hamid Ansari, former Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Obituary References were made to the passing away of two sitting Members including a Union Minister and 11 former Members of this House.

A Reference was made on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quit India Movement, followed by a discussion and unanimous adoption of a Resolution.

The Question Hour functioned on 11 of the 19 scheduled days. Out of the 285 Starred Question listed, 46 were orally answered and 187 Supplementaries were raised. Individual Members got opportunity to make 77 submissions on urgent public issues during Zero Hour. Members also expressed their concern on matters of public importance through 87 Special Mentions.

Substantial legislative business transacted by the House was indicative of the co-operation extended by all sections of the House and their commitment to fulfill the objectives and purpose of this August House. 9 Government Bills were passed and 4 were withdrawn. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha and the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 was referred to the Joint Committee of both Houses. Private Members' introduced 13 Bills and 2 of their Bills which were taken up for consideration and were withdrawn by the leave of the House.

The propensity of Members to utilize instruments of parliamentary procedures with skill and determination is reflected in the 3 Short Duration Discussions, in which 69 Members participated. In addition, 2 Calling Attentions

were also taken up. The eager demand for more such opportunities from Members underlines the need for making more time available for these devices for which a collective effort needs to be made to ensure smooth functioning of the House without disruptions and an inclination to work longer hours whenever required.

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*.

\*\*\*\*\*