

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 238TH SESSION

[23-02-2016 TO 16-03-2016]

1. The 238th Session (Budget Session) was scheduled to be held in two parts, *i.e.* from the 23rd February, 2016 to 16th March, 2016 and from 25th April, 2016 to 13th May, 2016. The first part of the Session, which commenced on Tuesday, the 23rd February, 2016, was adjourned on the 16th March, 2016 to meet again for the second part of the Session on the 25th April, 2016, as per the schedule. The House was, however, prorogued by the President on the 30th March, 2016.
2. The Session had 16 sittings and the House sat for more than 86 hours. During the Session, more than 10 hours were lost on issues like (a) suicide of Shri Rohith Vemula, a Research scholar of the University of Hyderabad, (b) alleged anti-national sloganeering by JNU students, (c) alleged money-laundering by the son of a former Union Minister in the Aircel-Maxis deal, (d) allotment of land to the business associates of the daughter of Gujarat Chief Minister at a fraction of the prevailing stamp duty, (e) alleged intervention of the Central Government in the functioning of Aligarh Muslim University, (f) Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Water dispute between the States of Punjab and Haryana, (j) World Culture Festival proposed on the floodplains of Yamuna in Delhi by the 'Art of Living' Foundation, (k) financial irregularities committed by Dr. Vijay Mallya, and (i) demand to give special category status to Andhra Pradesh. The House, however, sat late for more than 19 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 23rd February, 2016. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for four days and lasted for more than 13 hours. The Motion of Thanks was adopted, as amended.
4. The Chair made references to the passing away of Shri Sushil Koirala, former Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri A. B. Bardhan, former General Secretary of the Communist Party of India; Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai, doyenne of Indian classical dance; and Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar and Shri P.A. Sangma, former Speakers of Lok Sabha and 4 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
5. The Chair offered felicitations to the Scientists, Engineers and Technicians of ISRO for the successful launch of IRNSS-1F satellite.
6. References to the victims of (a) terrorist attack on the Pathankot Airbase in Punjab; (b) avalanche in Southern Ladakh and in the Northern part of the Siachen Glacier-Saltoro Ridge region in Jammu and Kashmir; and (c) terrorist attack at Pampore near Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, were made by the Chair. A Reference was also made on the occasion of the International Women Day.

7. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignation of Shri Anand Sharma, Member representing the State of Rajasthan.
8. The House bid farewell to 5 Nominated Members, whose term of office were to expire in the month of March, 2016 and 12 Members from the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Tripura, whose term of office were to expire in the month of April, 2016.
9. The Railway and General Budgets, for the year 2016-17, were laid on the Table of the House on the 25th and 29th February, 2016, respectively. The Outcome Budgets of various Ministries/Departments were also laid on the Table of the House, during the Session.
10. The discussion on the Railway Budget along with the related Appropriation Bills was spread over two days and lasted for about 8 hours. The discussion on the General Budget and the related Appropriation Bills was also spread over two days and lasted for more than 6 hours.
11. 11 Statements on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees were laid on the Table of the House by concerned Ministers.
12. The following 2 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session :-
 - (i) Complete breakdown of law and order in Delhi as has been witnessed recently; and
 - (ii) Inflammatory speeches made by a Minister in the Union Government and elected representatives violating the Constitution and oath of office and the response of the Government thereto.
13. The following issues were discussed at length for more than 8 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (i) Situation arising in the Central Institutions of higher education with specific reference to Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Hyderabad; and
 - (ii) Prevailing agrarian crisis in the country.
14. One Government Bill each was withdrawn and introduced. 12 Government Bills, *namely*, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Railways and General Appropriation Bills, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Bill, the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, the National Water Ways Bill, the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill were passed/returned. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 was referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

15. During the Session, 16 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 3 Private Members' Bills *namely* (a) The Pathological Laboratories and Clinics (Regulation and Control) Bill, 2010; (b) The Self-Financing Professional Educational Institutions (Control and Regulation) Bill, 2015; (c) The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2015 were discussed and while the first two Bills were withdrawn with the leave of the House, the discussion on the third Bill remained inconclusive . The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was negatived after division.
 16. No Private Member's Resolution could be discussed during the Session.
 17. During the Session, 39 Reports/Statements of various Parliamentary Committees including those of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were presented or laid on the Table of the House.
 18. There were 88 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session 57 Members also raised 93 matters with the permission of the Chair.
 19. Statement regarding adoption of the ILO Recommendation concerning Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy by the International Labour Conference at its 104th Session, Public Enterprises Survey, 2014-15, Economic Survey, 2015-16, Report of the National Human Rights Commission, Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on the Problems of Migrant SCs in obtaining Caste Certificates, 255th to 262nd Reports of the Law Commission of India, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights along with Action Taken Note on its recommendations, Report of the Central Information Commission, Report of the Competition Commission of India, First Report on the Working and Administration of the Companies Act, 2013 and some CAG Reports, were some of the important Reports/papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
 20. During the Session, 210 Starred Questions and 2234 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these, only 77 Starred Questions were orally answered.
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Highlights of work transacted during the 238th Session – At a glance
(23-2-2016 to 16-3-2016)

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| Sittings | Date of issue of Summons | 05-02-2016 |
| | Duration of the Session | 23-02-2016 to 16-03-2016 |
| | Number of actual days of sitting | 16 |
| | Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>) | 86+ Hrs. |
| | Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments | 10+ Hrs. |
| | Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess | 19+ Hrs. |
| | Date of prorogation of Session | 30-03-2016 |
| Questions | No. of Starred Questions listed | 210 |
| | No. of Starred Questions answered orally | 77 |
| | No. of Unstarred Questions answered | 2234 |
| | Short Notice Questions | - |
| | Half-an-Hour Discussions | - |
| Government Bills | No. of Bills introduced | 1 |
| | No. of Bills withdrawn | 1 |
| | No. of Bills passed/returned | 12 |
| | No. of Bills referred to Joint/Select Committee | 1 |
| | No. of Bills deferred | - |
| Private Members' Business | No. of Bills introduced | 16 |
| | No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration) | 1 |
| | No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived | 3 |
| | No. of Bills passed | - |
| | No. of Bills on which debate adjourned | - |
| | No. of Resolution part discussed | - |
| | No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived | - |
| Oath/Affirmation | No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation | - |
| Statements by Ministers | No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers | - |
| | No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees | 11 |
| Matters of public importance raised | No. of Calling Attentions | 2 |
| | No. of Short Duration Discussions | 2 |
| | No. of Special Mentions | 88 |
| | No. of Matters raised with permission | 93 |
| | Submission by Members | - |
| Papers Laid on the Table | | 1001 |