

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 240TH SESSION

[18-07-2016 TO 12-08-2016]

1. The 240th Session commenced on Monday, the 18th July, 2016 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 12th August, 2016.
2. The Session had 20 sittings and the House sat for more than 112 hours. During the Session, more than 20 hours were lost on issues like (a) incidents of violence and turmoil in Kashmir valley, (b) incidents of atrocities on and violence against Dalits in various parts of the country, (c) live streaming of Parliament premises and its security arrangements on social media by a Member of Lok Sabha, (d) demand to give special status for Andhra Pradesh on the basis of assurances given by the then Government at the time of reorganization of the State, (e) Government's move to make AADHAR Card mandatory for availing Government's benefits and subsidy, etc. (f) increasing unemployment in the country, and (g) alleged discrimination by the Centre in releasing funds for various schemes of Uttar Pradesh. The House, however, sat late for more than 20 Hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. 58 Members elected from the 16 States, *namely*, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and 1 nominated Member joined the House and welcomed by the Chair.
4. The Prime Minister introduced one Cabinet Minister and 19 Ministers of State to the House.
5. The Chair made references to the passing away of Shrimati Mahashweta Devi and 4 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
6. References to the victims of (a) natural calamities in various parts of the country; and (b) terror attacks in Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and France and (c) on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement were made by the Chair.
7. The Chair offered felicitations to the Scientists, Engineers and Technicians of ISRO for the successful launch of Re-usable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD) and 20 Satellites together including India's earth observation Cartosat-2 series satellite using PSLV-C34.
8. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignation of Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, a nominated Member.

9. The House was also informed about the nomination of Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita and Shri Basawaraj Patil, Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen of Rajya Sabha.

10. 3 Statements by Ministers were made on the (a) missing Indian Air Force operated AN-32 courier aircraft bound for Port Blair from Chennai on the 22nd July, 2016, (b) visit of Home Minister to Pakistan to attend the 7th meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home, and (c) Kokrajhar militant attack on the 5th August, 2016. The House was also informed about the (a) clean chit given by the National Anti-Doping Association (NADA) to Shri Narsing Yadav, wrestler in the doping case and allowed him to participate in the Rio Olympics, and (b) progress in the efforts being made by the Government of India in solving the problems faced by Indian labourers stranded in Saudi Arabia and the measures being taken to alleviate their sufferings. 33 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.

11. The following 5 matters of Urgent Public Importance were discussed in the form of a Calling Attention during the Session :-

- (i) Situation arising due to floods in the country, particularly in Odisha and preventive measures taken by the Government;
- (ii) Construction of barrages by Chhattisgarh Government on Mahanadi river affecting farmers in Odisha;
- (iii) High prices of essential medicines due to absence of Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy in the country;
- (iv) Alleged diversion of money from Employees' Provident Fund to the stock market; and
- (v) Impasse in the appointment of Judges in the High Courts and Supreme Court.

12. The following issues were discussed at length for more than 25 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-

- (i) recent incidents of violence and turmoil in Kashmir valley resulting in huge loss of lives and property;
- (ii) recent incidents of atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the country;
- (iii) situation arising out of price rise in the country;
- (iv) status of implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and the assurances given by the then Government to the House on the 20th February, 2014 with regard to the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

- (v) developments in the States of Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh leading to change in the Governments there and the role of Governors in the respective States.
- (vi) Draft National Education Policy-2016.

Besides, the House also discussed the prevailing situation in Kashmir Valley by dispensing with the Question Hour on the 10th August, 2016. The discussion, initiated by the Leader of the Opposition lasted for about 6 Hours and 28 Members belonging to all parties participated therein. 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.

13. One Government Bill was introduced and one Government Bill was withdrawn. 14 Government Bills, *namely*, the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, the Institutes of Technology Bill, the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill (*related to GST Bill*), the Mental Health Care Bill, and the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, the Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill, the Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Bills were passed. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.
14. During the Session, 14 Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House. Further consideration of one Private Member's Bill *namely* 'The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2015' was deferred and discussion on another one Bill remained inconclusive.
15. The issues regarding need to abolish capital punishment, and revive infrastructure industry in the country were discussed through Private Members' Resolutions.
16. During the Session, 68+ 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.
17. There were 91 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. 76 Members also raised 123 matters with the permission of the Chair.
18. Report of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC); Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC); Report on the Study of Cases in National Commission for Scheduled Castes on Exploitation of Scheduled Castes Labour in the Brick Klin Sector; Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock

Market Scam and matters related thereto (June, 2016); Report of the Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD); Unified Building Bye Laws for Delhi, 2016; Document titled 'Some inputs for Draft National Education Policy, 2016'; the Report on the progress made in the intake of SC/STs against vacancies reserved for them in recruitment and promotion categories on the Railways; and National Policy on Education, 2016; Liquidator's Report on the voluntary winding up of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited; Consolidated Report on the working of the Public Sector Banks, Report of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission were some of the important Reports/papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.

19. During the Session, 300 Starred Questions and 3101 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these, only 84 Starred Questions were orally answered and another 333 Supplementaries were also raised. One Half-an-hour Discussion was also held.

Highlights of work transacted during the 240th Session – At a glance
(18-7-2016 to 12-8-2016)

Sittings	
Date of issue of Summons	30-06-2016
Duration of the Session	18-07-2016 to 12-08-2016
Number of actual days of sitting	20
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	112+Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	20+ Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	20+ Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session	-
Questions	
No. of Starred Questions listed	300
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	84
No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3101
Short Notice Questions	-
Half-an-Hour Discussions	1
Government Bills	
No. of Bills introduced	1
No. of Bills withdrawn	1
No. of Bills passed/returned	14
No. of Bills referred to Joint/Select Committee	1
No. of Bills deferred	-
Private Members' Business	
No. of Bills introduced	14
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	1
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	-
No. of Bills passed	-
No. of Bills on which debate adjourned/deferred	1
No. of Resolution part discussed	1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived	1
Oath/Affirmation	
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	50
Statements by Ministers	
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	3
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	33
Matters of public importance raised	
No. of Calling Attentions	5
No. of Short Duration Discussions	6
No. of Special Mentions	91
No. of Matters raised with permission	123
Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table	996