

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 242ND SESSION

[31-01-2017 TO 09-02-2017

AND

09-03-2017 TO 12-04-2017]

1. The 242nd Session (Budget Session) commenced on Tuesday, the 31st January, 2017. The Session held in two parts and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 12th April, 2017.
2. The Session had 29 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 136 hours. During the Session, more than 13 hours were lost on issues like (a) Prime Minister's remarks against the former Prime Minister during the reply to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks (b) demand for swearing-in of Shrimati V.K. Sasikala, General Secretary of AIADMK as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu (c) conduct of State Governors with regard to formation of Government in Manipur and Goa (d) Government's proposal for setting up a National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes in place of National Commission for Backward Classes (e) delay in filling up of reserved vacancies in Commissions on Minorities, SCs/STs and OBCs (f) reported remarks of Rajasthan's Home Minister on rape, (g) alleged tampering of EVM machines in the recently held elections to State Legislative Assemblies and (h) selective targeting of Opposition leaders in cases of land allotment by the State Governments. The House, however, made up this loss by sitting late for more than 6^{1/2} hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. One new Member *namely* Shri Manish Gupta elected in the Bye election from the State of West Bengal joined the House during the Session.
4. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignations of Shri Mithun Chakraborty and Shri Bishnu Charan Das, Members representing the States of West Bengal and Odisha respectively.
5. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Former President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Sir James Richard Mancham, Former President of Seychelles; Mr. Alexander M. Kadakin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India; Haji Abdul Salam, sitting Member and **11** former Members of the Rajya Sabha.

6. References to the (a) the victims of the avalanches in Sonmarg in Ganderbal district, Gurez Sector in Bandipora district and Machchil Sector in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on the 25th, 26th and 28th of January, 2017 respectively, (b) World Water Day and (c) Hundredth Anniversary of the Champaran Satyagraha were made by the Chair.
7. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 31st January, 2017. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for four days and lasted for more than 14 hours.
8. The Union Budget by merging the General and Railway Budgets was laid on the 1st February, 2017 for the first time departing from the old convention of laying them at the end of February.
9. The Union Budget, 2017-18 including the Appropriation Bills and the Finance Bill, were discussed for more than 20 hours during this Session.
10. The House witnessed lively debate during the discussion on the working of Ministry of Railways along with the Railway Appropriation Bills, which lasted for more than 5^{1/2} hours.
11. The House unanimously passed the historic GST Bills, a biggest tax reform which will bring India under a uniform indirect tax regime. Besides, the House also passed or returned 14 Government Bills, *namely*, the Payment of Wates (Amendment) Bill, the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Bill, the Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill and Appropriation (General and Railways) Bills during the Session which demonstrated the desirability of careful deliberation through available instrumentalities and the benefits accruing from it. 2 Government Bills were also withdrawn.
12. There were 9 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (a) Action taken in the aftermath of the collision of two vessels off the Kamarajar harbour, which occurred on the 28th January, 2017 (b) on the negotiations that took place in the 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in October, 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda (c) incidents which occurred in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 7th and 8th March, 2017, respectively (d) Killing of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy off the coast of Tamil Nadu (e) Apprehension of Indian Fishermen by Pakistan (f) National Health Policy, 2017 (g) recent attack on security forces at Sukma, Chhattisgarh on the 11th March, 2017 (h) hate crimes against citizens of Indian origin and Indian nationals settled in the United States of America and (i) incident of killing of a dairy farmer in Rajasthan. Some of

these statements provided opportunities to Members to seek clarifications from the Ministers concerned. The House was also informed about the stance of the Central Government in the matter regarding award of death sentence to an Indian citizen, Shri Kulbhushan Jadhav by a Pakistani military court, by the Minister concerned. **35** Statements were made/laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.

13. There were about **76** Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. About **205** matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
14. The following issues were discussed at length for more than **9^{1/2}** hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (i) Electoral Reforms; and
 - (ii) implementation and implications of AADHAAR
15. The issue regarding need to convene a meeting of the National Development Council to discuss the necessity for continuance of Special Category Status was also taken up in the form of a Calling Attention.
16. The issues regarding need to (a) preserve indigenous breeds of cattle and (b) drought in the Bundelkhand region were discussed at length through Private Members' Resolutions.
17. During the Session, **33** Private Member's Bills were introduced in the House and 4 Private Members' Bills *namely* (a) the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015, (b) the Declaration of Countries as Sponsors of Terrorism Bill, 2016, (c) the Solid Waste Management Bill, 2016, (d) the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and (e) the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016, were discussed at length.
18. During the Session, **153** 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.
19. Economic Survey, 2016-17; Fiscal Policy Statements, 2017-18; Report of the Law Commission of India on the Protection of Children (Inter-Country Removal and Retention) Bill, 2016; Report of the Union Public Service Commission, (UPSC) for the year 2015-16; Report of the Central Information Commission (CIC), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16; Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), New Delhi, for the year, 2015-16; Public Enterprises Survey (Volumes I and II), for the year 2015-16; Report on the working of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955; Report on the working of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of

Atrocities) Act, 1989; Report on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in the recruitment and promotion categories on the Railways; Report of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers(EC), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16; Reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi for the year 2010-13 and Action taken thereon; Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Effective Utilisation of funds for the year 2016; Quarterly Review Statement of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of third quarter of the financial year 2016-17; Report of the National Commission for Women, for the year 2015-16; Report of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, New Delhi, for the year 2015-16; Statement regarding ratification of the minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 183) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO); Report of the Central Vigilance Commission and few CAG Reports and some sensitive notifications relating to Ministry of Finance were some of the important Reports that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.

20. During the Session, 435 Starred Questions and 4629 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these **144** Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up on **2** days due to pandemonium and interruptions in the House over one or the other issue. **3** Statements by Ministers correcting answers to questions were also laid during the Session.

Highlights of work transacted during the 242nd Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		06-01-2017
Duration of the Session		31-01-2017 to 12-04-2017
Number of actual days of sitting		29
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		136+ Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		13+ Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		6+ Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		435
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		144
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		4629
Short Notice Questions		-
Half-an-Hour Discussions		-
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		-
No. of Bills withdrawn		2
No. of Bills passed/returned		14
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee		1
No. of Bills deferred		-
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		33
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		1
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived		4
No. of Resolution part discussed		1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived		1
Oath/Affirmation		
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation		1
Statements by Ministers		
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers		9
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees		35
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		1
No. of Short Duration Discussions		2
No. of Special Mentions		76
No. of Matters raised with permission		205
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		2020