

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 244TH SESSION

[15-12-2017 TO 05-01-2018]

1. The 244th Session commenced on Friday, the 15th of December, 2017 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 5th of January, 2018.
2. The Session had 13 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 41 hours. During the Session, more than 33 hours were lost on issues like (a) disqualification of 2 Members from the membership of the Rajya Sabha *wef* 4.12.2017, under the Tenth schedule to the Constitution, (b) seeking Prime Minister's apology for his allegations made against former Prime Minister (Dr. Manmohan Singh) during election campaign in Gujarat over his meeting with Pak officials in New Delhi, (c) acquittal of all accused in 2G Spectrum case by CBI's Special Court, (d) need to revise the salaries and allowances of parliamentarians, (e) reported remarks of a Union Minister about the Constitution, (f) protest against reported tweet by the President of a political party for twisting the name of the Minister of Finance, (g) strike by Doctors to protest against the proposed National Medical Commission Bill, (h) law and order situation in Maharashtra in the wake of recent incidents of caste violence in Pune, etc. The House, however, somewhat made up this loss by sitting late for about 3 hours to complete legislative and other important business.
3. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignation of three sitting Members, *namely*, Shri Manohar Parrikar, Shri Mukul Roy and Shri M. P. Veerendra Kumar and about the disqualification of Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Ali Anwar Ansari from the membership of the Rajya Sabha.
4. During the Session, the House made references to the passing away of Shri Arjan Singh, Marshal of the Indian Air Force and 12 former Members of the Rajya Sabha.
5. 12 new Ministers, inducted into the Union Council of Ministers, were introduced by the Prime Minister and the new Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha was also introduced by the Chairman to the House.
6. References to the victims of (a) a Boiler explosion in a power generation unit of NTPC at Unchahar in Rae Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh on 1.11.2017, (b) Cyclone '*Ockhi*' and subsequent heavy rains in the coastal areas of the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, and (c) accident wherein a bus fell into the Banas River in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan were made by the Chair.
7. The House felicitated (a) the Indian Men's and Women's Hockey teams for winning the Asia Cup, 2017 held in Bangladesh and Japan respectively, (b) Shrimati M. C. Mary Kom, a nominated Member of the House and Shrimati

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu for winning Gold medals in the Asian Women's Boxing and World Weightlifting Championships held in Vietnam and California (USA) respectively, (c) the Indian contingent for winning 17 Gold, 14 Silver and 13 Bronze Medals in the Asian Youth Para Games, and (d) the scientists, engineers and technicians of the DRDO for the successful demonstration of the Ballistic Missile Defence capability through an Advanced Area Defence Missile.

8. The House bade farewell to three Members, *namely*, Dr. Karan Singh, Shri Janardan Dwivedi and Shri Parvez Hashmi, representing the NCT of Delhi, whose term of office would expire on the 27th of January, 2018.
9. A Statement was made by the Minister of External Affairs regarding the meeting of the family members of Shri Kulbhushan Jadhav with him in Pakistan and situation arising therefrom and Members of various parties/groups expressed their concern. The Minister of Commerce and Industry also laid a statement regarding 'India's stand in the WTO'. 50 Statements on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees were also laid on the Table of the House.
10. During the Session, the House passed 9 Government Bills, *namely*, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Institutes of Management Bill, the Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy Bill, the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, the Repealing and Amending Bill, the Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill.
11. There were 50 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. 51 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
12. The following issues were discussed at length for about 6 hours in the form of Short Duration Discussions :-
 - (i) excessively high levels of air pollution in Delhi; and
 - (ii) the state of economy, investment climate and job creation in the country and the need to address the challenge of rising unemployment.
13. During the Session, 19 Private Members' Bills were introduced and 1 Private Member's Bill *namely* the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (insertion of new article 16A) was discussed and motion for consideration of the Bill was negatived. However, no Private Members' Resolution could be discussed during the Session.
14. During the Session, 110 Reports/Statements of various Parliamentary Committees including those of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees and one Report of the Inquiry Committee in respect of Justice S.K.

Gangele, Judge, Madhya Pradesh High Court were presented or laid on the Table of the House.

15. Report of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), New Delhi, Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the first quarter of the Financial year 2017-18, Report of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), New Delhi, Report of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), New Delhi, Report of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), New Delhi, Report of the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi, Administrative Report of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, 266th to 270th Reports of the Law Commission of India, Statement on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the second quarter of the Financial year 2017-18 and the Statement explaining deviation in meeting the obligations of the Government, Twenty-ninth Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (December, 2017), Valuation Report of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Mumbai, as on 31st March, 2017, Report of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC), 2016-17; Report of the University Grants Commission, 2016-17 and few CAG Reports were some of the important Reports/Papers that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
16. During the Session, 210 Starred Questions and 2239 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 46 Starred Questions were orally answered.

Highlights of work transacted during the 244th Session – At a glance

Sittings	
Date of issue of Summons	25-11-2017
Duration of the Session	15-12-2017 to 05-01-2018
Number of actual days of sitting	13
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	41+ Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	33+ Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	3+ Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session	-
Questions	
No. of Starred Questions listed	210
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	46
No. of Unstarred Questions answered	2239
Short Notice Questions	-
Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
Government Bills	
No. of Bills introduced	-
No. of Bills withdrawn	-
No. of Bills passed/returned	9
No. of Bills referred to Select/Joint Committee	-
No. of Bills deferred	-
Private Members' Business	
No. of Bills introduced	19
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	-
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	1
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	2
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	50
Matters of public importance raised	
No. of Calling Attentions	-
No. of Short Duration Discussions	2
No. of Special Mentions	50
No. of Matters raised with permission	51
Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table	2523