

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 247th SESSION

[11-12-2018 TO 09-01-2019]

1. The 247th Session commenced on Tuesday, the 11th of December, 2018 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 9th of January, 2019.
2. The Session had 18 sittings (*though 20 sittings were originally scheduled, 3 sittings scheduled on 24th and 26th December, 2018 and 1st January, 2019 were cancelled on account of Christmas and New Year, respectively and sitting was extended by one day for 9th January, 2019*) in all and the House sat for more than 27 hours in the entire Session.
3. During the Session, the House passed 4 Government Bills, *namely*, the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2018; the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018; the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018; and the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2019; and introduced 5 Bills, *namely*, the Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018; the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2019; the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2019; the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019; and withdrew 4 Bills, *namely*, the Nalanda University (Amendment) Bill, 2013; the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005; the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
4. One Statutory Resolution on the Proclamation issued by the President under article 356 of the Constitution of India in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir was discussed for more than 2½ hours in which 15 Members participated and was adopted by the House.
5. Two Statutory Resolutions increasing the Basic Customs Duty on certain goods were also adopted in the Session.
6. Hon'ble Chairman expressed his appreciation to all those Members who had contributed generously from their MPLADS Funds and to donate their one month's salary for relief and rehabilitation works in various parts of Kerala, affected by floods and landslides in the month of August, 2018.
7. The House felicitated Shrimati M.C. Mary Kom, a nominated Member of the House for clinching the Gold medal, Ms. Sonia Chahal for winning Silver medal and Ms. Simranjit Kaur and Ms. Lovlina Borgohain for winning the Bronze medals in their respective categories in the Women's World Boxing Championship held at New Delhi in November, 2018. The House also felicitated the Scientists, Engineers and Technicians of ISRO for launching

India's heaviest and most-advanced communication satellite GSAT-11 from the Spaceport at French Guiana on 5th of December, 2018. The House also felicitated Miss P.V. Sindhu for scripting history by becoming the first Indian to clinch the Gold medal in Badminton World Federation World Tour Finals held at Guangzhou, China, on the 16th of December, 2018.

8. The House made references to the passing away of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister and ex-Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, former Speaker of Lok Sabha and Shri Ananthkumar, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and sitting Member of Lok Sabha, along with 17 other former Members. The House also adjourned for the day, as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Former Prime Minister on the opening day of the Session, *i.e.* 11th December, 2018.
9. The House also made a reference to the passing away of Mr. George H.W. Bush, former President of United States of America.
10. During the Session, the House made references to the victims of Cyclone *Titli* which wrecked havoc in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in October, 2018 and Cyclone *Gaja* which hit the coastal and interior regions of Tamil Nadu in November, 2018 and on the Seventeenth anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Parliament Building.
11. The House associated with the sentiments expressed by Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa on the Martyr Day of four sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and paid homage for their supreme sacrifice.
12. 16 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance were made/laid during the Session. 38 Matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
13. During the Session, 2 Private Member's Resolutions were discussed in the House. However, no Private Members' Bill could be introduced or discussed during the entire Session.
14. Dr. V. Maitreyan had called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the situation arising due to devastation caused by cyclones *Gaja* and *Titli* in some States and the action taken by the Government in regard thereto. The Minister, however, could not make the statement and Members were not able to seek clarifications despite the item being repeatedly listed due to continuous disruption of the House.
15. During the Session, 153 Reports/Statements of various Parliamentary Committees including those of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees and Joint Committee on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 were presented or laid on the Table of the House.
16. During the session some important papers like Public Enterprises Survey (Volumes I&II), for the year 2017-18; Annual Report and Accounts of the National Centre for Good Governance, for the year 2017-18; University Grants Commission, for the year 2017-18; National Commission for Women, for the year 2017-18; Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, for the year 2017-18; Central

Pollution Control Board, for the year 2016-17; Ninth Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, for the year 2013-14; Annual Reports of the National Human Rights Commission for the year 2016-17; National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, for the year 2017-18; Central Information Commission, for the year 2017-18; Statement on Half Yearly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the first half of the Financial Year 2018-19; 6 Reports of the Law Commission of India on various issues; and few CAG Reports *etc.* were laid on the Table of the House.

17. On the 2nd of January, 2019, the Chair, under Rule 255 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), directed Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan, Shri S. Muthukaruppan, Shri N. Gokulakrishnan, Shri A.K. Selvaraj, Dr. R. Lakshmanan, Dr. V. Maitreyan, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth, Shri S. R. Balasubramoniyam, Shri A. Vijayakumar, Shri R.S. Bharathi, Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shrimati Kanimozhi and Shri T.K.S. Elangovan, Members to withdraw from the House for disregarding the authority of the Chair.
18. 1 *suo motu* Statement was made on the 9th of January, 2019, by the Minister of Home Affairs regarding the law and order situation in the North Eastern States of the Country over the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019. 48 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.
19. During the Session, 285 Starred Questions and 3040 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 31 Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up on 13 days of the sitting of Rajya Sabha because of disruptions and adjournment of the House. One Statement by Minister correcting answer to question was also laid on the Table during the Session.
20. During the Session, more than 78 hours were lost on issues like (a) Demand for ban on construction of Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project of Karnataka and justice for the Tamil Nadu farmers living along the Cauvery delta (b) demand for Special Category status for the State of Andhra Pradesh (c) Rafale deal (d) Government Order giving Central Investigative Agencies and the Delhi Police sweeping powers to intercept computers all over the country (e) sealing drive in Delhi (f) CBI probe against Samajwadi Party President over alleged illegal mining and (g) violent incidents in Kerala over the entry of women into Sabarimala Temple. *etc.*
21. 56 Members made good use of the recently launched *e-Notices* Portal, as is evident from the 2,688 *e-Notices* received during the Session. Out of these, 2,460 pertained to Questions, 126 to Matters Raised, 48 to Special Mentions and the remaining ones to various other parliamentary devices.

Highlights of work transacted during the 247th Session – At a glance

Sittings	
Date of issue of Summons	17-11-2018
Duration of the Session	11-12-2018 to 09-01-2019
Number of sittings cancelled	3
Number of sitting extended	1
Number of actual days of sitting	18
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	27+ Hrs.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	78+ Hrs.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	6+ Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session	-
Questions	
No. of Starred Questions listed	285
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	31
No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3040
Short Notice Questions	-
Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
Government Bills	
No. of Bills introduced	5
No. of Bills withdrawn	4
No. of Bills passed/returned	4
No. of Bills referred to Select/Joint Committee	NIL
No. of Bills deferred	NIL
Private Members' Business	
No. of Bills introduced	NIL
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	NIL
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	NIL
No. of Resolutions discussed	2
No. of Resolutions negatived/withdrawn	2
Oath/Affirmation	
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	NIL
Statements by Ministers	
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statement made by Minister	1
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	48
Matters of public importance raised	
No. of Calling Attentions	1
	<i>(Minister could not make the Statement and clarifications could not be sought due to continuous disruption of the House)</i>
No. of Short Duration Discussions	NIL
No. of Special Mentions	16
No. of Matters raised with permission	38
Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table	2094