

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STATISTICAL INFORMATION**  
**PERTAINING TO THE 250<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

**[ 18-11-2019 TO 13-12-2019 ]**

1. The 250<sup>th</sup> Session commenced on Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019 and as scheduled, comes to an end today, the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019.
2. The Session had 20 sittings in all and the House sat for around 107 hours in the entire Session.
3. A Special Discussion on the 'Role of Rajya Sabha in Indian polity and the way forward' was held on the opening day of the Session, *i.e.* 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019 to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Session of the Rajya Sabha. The discussion commenced with the observations of the Hon'ble Chairman and was initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. 27 Members belonging to various political parties/groups and the Deputy Chairman participated in the discussion.
4. The House made references to the passing away of Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri Ram Jethmalani, sitting Members of the House along with 5 other former Members. The Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leaders of political parties in Rajya Sabha associated themselves with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Chairman to the passing away of Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri Ram Jethmalani and as a mark of respect to their memory, the House adjourned till 2-00 p.m. on the opening day of the Session, *i.e.* 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019.
5. The House also condoled the death of Mr. Robert Mugabe, former President of the Republic of Zimbabwe.
6. The House was informed about the nomination of Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda, Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen of Rajya Sabha.
7. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignations of three sitting Members, *namely*, Shri K.C. Ramamurthy, Dr. Tazeen Fatma, and Shri Ram Kumar Kashyap.
8. References to the Eleventh Anniversary of the horrific terrorist attacks in Mumbai; Incident of fire in a building in Anaj Mandi area on Rani Jhansi Road in New Delhi, Seventy-first anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Eighteenth Anniversary of the Terrorist Attack on the Parliament Building were also made in the House.
9. The House felicitated Shri Abhijit Banerjee for being awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel (commonly referred to as the Nobel Prize in Economics) for the year 2019 along with Ms. Esther Duflo and Mr. Michael Kremer by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The House also felicitated Ms. Manu Bhaker, Ms. Elavenil

Valarivan, Shri Divyansh Singh Panwar, Shri Saurabh Chaudhary, Ms. Apurvi Chandela and Shri Shahzar Rizvi for winning Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in the 10m Air Pistol and 10m Air Rifle Women and Men individual events and Mixed Team Competitions, thus topping the medal tally, at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup Final held at Putian in China, from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2019 and the Scientists, Engineers and Technicians of ISRO for successful launch of CARTOSAT-3, a third-generation earth observation satellite, along with 13 nano satellites of the United States of America into space using PSLV-C47, from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

10. A function to commemorate 70 years of adoption of the Constitution was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019 in the Central Hall of Parliament House which was graced by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and the Speaker, Lok Sabha and attended by Members of both the Houses of Parliament.
11. Shri K.C. Ramamurthy and Shri Arun Singh, Members elected in the Bye-elections to the Rajya Sabha from the States of Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, respectively, made and subscribed Oath and took their seats in the House.
12. During the Session, the House passed 13 Government Bills, *namely*, the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019; the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019; the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019; the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019; the Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019; the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019; the International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019. The House also returned 2 Government Bills, *namely*, the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2019. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 was referred to a Select Committee after discussion. A Motion was also adopted in the House to refer the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 to the Joint Committee of the Houses. The House also withdrew 4 Bills, *namely*, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987; the National Commission for Human Resources for Health Bill, 2011; the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and the International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019.
13. The following 3 matters of Urgent Public Importance were raised in the form of Calling Attention during the Session :-
  - (i) Situation arising out of dangerous levels of air pollution in the country, particularly in Delhi;
  - (ii) Reported use of spyware Pegasus to compromise phone data of some persons through WhatsApp;and

- (iii) Need for completion of National Irrigation Projects to tackle emerging water crisis and to transfer 'Water' to Concurrent List from State List.
14. Discussion on the 'Economic Situation in the Country' was discussed in the form of Short Duration Discussion for more than 3 hours in which 23 Members participated and concluded with the reply of the concerned Minister.
  15. 2 Statements were made by Ministers on (i) Government's effort to promote foreign policy focusing on high level visits that have taken place recently; and (ii) 'India's position in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). 13 Statements were also laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
  16. 115 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance were made/laid during the Session. 200 Matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair. On the 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, the Chairman informed the House that the time limit for submission of Notices on Matters raised with the permission of the Chair (Zero Hour Matters) both manually and online through e-Notices facility has been revised upto 9-00 A.M. on the day the matter is sought to be raised.
  17. The Leader of the Opposition and 21 other Members made submission regarding the 'Safety of Women', on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2019. Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav and some other Members also made a submission regarding 'Rising crimes against women across the country', on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019.
  18. During the Session, 40 Private Member's Bills were introduced and 3 Private Members' Bills, *namely*, (a) the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2014; (b) the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 [amendment of article 51A] and (c) the Foreign Investment in Financial Services, Critical Infrastructure and Technology Affecting National Security (Regulation) Bill, 2018 were discussed at length. While the first Bill was deferred to the next Session as agreed to by the House, the second Bill was withdrawn by the leave of the House and the discussion on the third Bill remained inconclusive. During the Session, one Private Member's Resolution was taken up by the House, but the discussion on it remained inconclusive.
  19. During the session some important papers like the Annual Report of the Central Information Commission (CIC); National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA); National Commission for Scheduled Castes on the plight of Safai Karamcharis and the Recommendations/Proposals to improve their plight; 33<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliament Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters related thereto; Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission; Eleventh Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes; Annual Report of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA); Annual Report of the Haj Committee of India, Annual Report of the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA); Annual Report of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC); Seventy-seventh

Report of the Law Commission of India; Annual Report of the University Grants Commission (UGC); Annual Report of the National Commission for Women (NCW); Annual Report of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR); Statement on Half Yearly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget at the end of first half of the Financial year 2019-20 and few CAG Reports *etc.* were laid on the Table of the House.

20. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019, the Hon'ble Chairman made an observation regarding constitution of an Informal Group with Shri Jairam Ramesh as Coordinator and 13 other Members belonging to various political Parties/Groups to study the alarming issue of pornography on social media and its effect on children and society as a whole pursuant to the issue raised by Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth on 28<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019. The Chairman further observed that the Group may further consult Civil Society Groups, Computer Emergency Response Team, Social Media Companies *etc.* and after comprehensive discussion, submit a Report within one month, after which a further course of action will be decided with due deliberation thereon. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019 the Chairman made an announcement regarding formation of an *Ad-hoc* Committee with the same composition as the Informal Group constituted by him on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019 to resolve certain logistic problems being faced by the Group due to its informal nature. He also informed that Shri Jairam Ramesh will be the Chairman of the Committee and that the Rules relating to Select Committee on Bills shall apply to this *Ad-hoc* Committee also. He further informed that the Committee will submit a Report within one month, without any extension under any circumstances.
21. During the Session, 284 Starred Questions and 3039 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 171 Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up on 2 days due to disruptions and adjournment of the House. Question Hour was not scheduled on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019, as the House assembled at 2-00 p.m. on that day after the function to commemorate 70 years of adoption of the Constitution in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Question Hour was also dispensed with on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019 to take up discussion on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Three Statements by Ministers correcting answers to Questions were made/laid on the Table during the Session. One Short Notice Question was answered orally.
22. During the Session, around 12 hours were lost on issues like (a) police action on protesting JNU students (b) detention of J&K Leaders (c) Electoral Bonds (d) privatisation of State-owned firms (e) political developments over formation of Government in Maharashtra and role of the Governor (f) burning of Unnao rape victim, (g) delay in release of GST dues to States (h) widespread unrest in Assam and other North-Eastern States after the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (i) statement of Shri Rahul Gandhi over the rising incidents of rape and crimes against women across the country *etc.* The House however, made up for the lost time by sitting late and skipping lunch for more than 10 Hours.

## Highlights of work transacted during the 250<sup>th</sup> Session – At a glance

<b>Sittings</b>	
Date of issue of Summons	23-10-2019
Duration of the Session	18-11-2019 to 13-12-2019
Number of actual days of sitting	20
Actual Hours of sittings ( <i>excluding recess intervals</i> )	106 Hrs. 55 Mts.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	11 Hrs. 51 Mts.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	10 Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session	-
<b>Questions</b>	
No. of Starred Questions listed	284
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	171
No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3039
Short Notice Questions	1
Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
<b>Government Bills</b>	
No. of Bills introduced	-
No. of Bills withdrawn	4
No. of Bills passed/returned	15
No. of Bills referred to Select/Joint Committee	2
No. of Bills deferred	NIL
<b>Private Members' Business</b>	
No. of Bills introduced	40
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	2
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	1
No. of Resolutions part discussed	1
<b>Oath/Affirmation</b>	
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	2
<b>Statements by Ministers</b>	
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made by Ministers	2
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	13
<b>Matters of public importance raised</b>	
No. of Calling Attentions	3
No. of Short Duration Discussions	1
No. of Special Mentions	115
No. of Matters raised with permission	200
Submission by Members	2
<b>Papers Laid on the Table</b>	4776