

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 251st SESSION

[31-01-2020 to 11-02-2020 & 02-03-2020 to 03-04-2020]

1. The 251st Session (Budget Session) commenced on Friday, the 31st January, 2020. The Session was held in two parts. The First part was held from 31st January, 2020 to 11th February, 2020. The Second part, which commenced on 2nd March, 2020 and was scheduled to end on 3rd April, 2020 came to an early end on 23rd March, 2020, on account of the pandemic spread of COVID-19 in the country and worldwide.
2. The Session had 23 sittings in all, as against the scheduled 31 sittings. The House sat for 90 Hours and 29 Minutes during the entire Session.
3. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament on the 31st January, 2020. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for three days and lasted for 13 hours and 51 minutes, in which 43 Members participated.
4. The discussion on the Union Budget, 2020-21, which was laid on the Table of the House on 1st February, 2020, took place for two days and lasted for 11 hours and 54 minutes.
5. The Report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission for the year 2020-21 along with Explanatory Memorandum on the action taken on the recommendations contained therein was also laid on the Table of the House, on 1st February, 2020.
6. During the Session, the House passed 5 Government Bills, *namely*, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2020; the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020; the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2020; the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2019 and the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2019. The House also agreed to the amendments made by the Lok Sabha in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The House also returned 8 Government Bills, *namely*, the Direct Tax *Vivad Se Viswas* Bill, 2020; the Appropriation Bill, 2020; the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2020; the Finance Bill, 2020; the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2020; the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2020; the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2020 and the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2020. Two Government Bills *namely*, The Private Detective Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2007 and the Pesticides Management Bill, 2008 were withdrawn and the Pesticides Management Bill, 2020 was introduced.
7. Shri Dushyant Gautam, Member elected in the Bye-election to the Rajya Sabha from the State of Haryana and Shri Ranjan Gogoi, former Chief Justice of India who was Nominated to the Rajya Sabha made and subscribed Oath during the Session.
8. The House made a reference to the passing away of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Sultan of Oman and 12 former Members of the House during the Session.
9. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignation of a sitting Member, Chaudhary Birender Singh.

10. The House made references to (i) unprecedented bushfires in Australia since September, 2019; (ii) the 'International Women's Day'; and (iii) attack by Maoists on security personnel in the Minpra jungles in Bastar region of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on 21st March, 2020. The House paid tributes to the legendary heroes of our Freedom Movement, Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdev, to attained martyrdom 89 years ago.
11. The House felicitated (i) Shrimati M.C. Mary Kom on being conferred the *Padma Vibhushan* Award for the year 2020 for her exceptional and distinguished service in the field of Sports; (ii) Late Shri George Fernandes, Late Shri Arun Jaitley, Late Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Late Shri Manohar Parrikar and Shri S.C. Jamir, former Members of the House on being conferred the *Padma Vibhushan* and Shri S.C. Jamir and Late Shri Manohar Parrikar on being conferred the *Padma Bhushan* for the year 2020 for their exceptional and distinguished service in the field of Public Affairs; and (iii) Indian Wrestling Contingent for their excellent performance at the Asian Wrestling Championship, 2020 held in New Delhi.
12. Discussion on the 'Recent Law and Order situation in some parts of Delhi' was discussed in the form of Short Duration Discussion for more than 4 hours in which 22 Members participated and concluded with the reply of the Minister of Home Affairs.
13. Out of the 5 Ministries selected for discussion on their working, only two, *namely*, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises could be discussed fully. Though the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Law and Justice was taken up, it remained inconclusive.
14. 4 statements were made by the Ministers on (i) outbreak of Novel Corona Virus disease in China and some other countries and steps taken by the Government of India; (ii) Supreme Court's judgement in Civil Appeal No.1226 of 2020 Mukesh Kumar & Anr. Vs. the State of Uttarakhand & Ors., regarding reservation for Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes in promotions; (iii) large number of reported cases across the world and reported cases in India of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) and the steps taken by the Government of India; and (iv) Indians stranded in Iran due to COVID-19 situation. 8 Statements were also laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
15. 79 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance were made/laid during the Session. 170 Matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair. On the 18th March, 2020, the Chairman gave a direction that Members, who give notices of 'Special Mentions' and of 'Matters Raised with Permission' and remain absent when called will not get opportunity for one week. He informed that this direction will be in addition to his earlier direction that Members who give notices for these parliamentary devices and are present in the House, but do not speak when called will not be given opportunity for 15 days and that these directions are to ensure that other Members are not deprived of their opportunity to raise matters.
16. During the Session, 105 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. The Reports of the Ad Hoc Committee constituted by the Chairman to study the "alarming issue of child pornography and its effect on society as a whole" and the Select Committee on the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 were also laid/presented.

17. During the Session, 17 Private Members' Bills were introduced. 2 Private Member's Bills *namely*, the Foreign Investment in Financial Services, Critical Infrastructure and Technology Affecting National Security (Regulation) Bill, 2018 and the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2014 were discussed thoroughly and were withdrawn by the leave of the House. One Private Member's Resolution was also discussed during the Session, but remained inconclusive.
 18. The House bid farewell to 57 Members who would be retiring in the months of April, June and July, 2020 on completion of their term of office. 13 retiring Members spoke on the occasion. The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House associated with the sentiments expressed by the Chairman and the retiring Members.
 19. During the Session, some important papers like, 69th Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission; Public Enterprises Survey (Vol. II); Annual Report and Accounts of the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (National Population Stabilization Fund); 30th Annual Report and Accounts of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation; Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes on atrocities against *Kuravan* community in Tamil Nadu-2016; Annual Report and Accounts of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India; Report on the Progress made intake of Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in recruitment and promotion categories in the Railways for the year 2018-19; 62nd Report of the Indian Law Institute, few CAG Reports and some sensitive notifications relating to Ministry of Finance were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.
 20. During the Session, 315 Starred Questions and 3360 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 79 Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up for 8 days due to disruptions and adjournment of the House. Question Hour was also dispensed with on 3 days - on 10th and 11th February, 2020 to take up the Discussion on the Union Budget, 2020-21 and on 12th March, 2020 to take up discussion on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Two statements by the Ministers correcting answers to Questions were also laid on the Table during the Session.
 21. During the Session, more than 38 hours were lost on issues like (a) nationwide protest over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Population Register and apprehensions related thereto (b) riots and law and order situation in some parts of Delhi (c) political developments in Madhya Pradesh and detention of a senior Member of INC in Bengaluru, *etc.* The House however, made up for the lost time by sitting late and skipping lunch for around 10 Hours.
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Highlights of work transacted during the 251st Session – At a glance	
Sittings	
Date of issue of Summons	16-01-2020
Duration of the Session	31-01-2020 to 11-02-2020 and 02-03-2020 to 23-03-2020
Number of actual days of sitting	23
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)	90 Hrs. 29 Mts.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	38 Hrs. 23 Mts.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	9 Hrs. 59 Mts.
Date of prorogation of Session	29-03-2020
Questions	
No. of Starred Questions listed	315
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	79
No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3360
Short Notice Questions	-
Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
Government Bills	
No. of Bills introduced	1
No. of Bills withdrawn	2
No. of Bills passed/returned	13*
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee	-
No. of Bills under consideration	-
No. of Bills deferred	-
Private Members' Business	
No. of Bills introduced	17
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)	-
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived	2
No. of Resolution part discussed	1
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived	-
Oath/Affirmation	
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/ affirmation	2
Statements by Ministers	
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	4
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	8
Matters of public importance raised	
No. of Calling Attentions	-
No. of Short Duration Discussions	1
No. of Special Mentions	79
No. of Matters raised with permission	170
Submission by Members	-
Papers Laid on the Table	2734

* The amendments made by Lok Sabha in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019 were also agreed to.