

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 252ND SESSION
[14-09-2020 to 01-10-2020]

1. The 252nd (Monsoon) Session which commenced on Monday, the 14th of September, 2020 and was scheduled to end on 1st October, 2020, came to an early end on 23rd September, 2020, on account of the pandemic spread of COVID-19. The time of sittings of the Rajya Sabha during the Session was from 9.00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. except on 14th September, 2020, the first day of the Session, when the House met from 3.00 P.M. to 7.00 P.M.
2. The Session had sittings of 10 days without break on Saturdays and Sundays and the House sat for more than 39 hours.
3. The Chairman made opening remarks on the first day of the Session and *inter alia* apprised Members of the special seating, technical and logistical arrangements made and safeguards taken to ensure conduct of the Session in a safe environment.
4. A motion by the Government for suspending the relevant rules of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) for non-transaction of Starred Questions and Private Members' Business during the current Session in view of the prevailing extraordinary circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic was adopted.
5. During the Session, the House passed/returned following 25 Government Bills:-
 - (i) The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (ii) The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020;
 - (iii) The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (iv) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (v) The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (vi) The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (vii) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (viii) The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (ix) The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020;
 - (x) The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020;
 - (xi) The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (xii) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (xiii) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (xiv) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
 - (xv) The National Forensic Sciences University Bill, 2020;
 - (xvi) The Rashtriya Raksha University Bill, 2020;
 - (xvii) The Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020;
 - (xviii) The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020;
 - (xix) The Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020;
 - (xx) The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020;

- (xxi) The Industrial Relations Code, 2020,
- (xxii) The Code on Social Security, 2020;
- (xxiii) The Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020;
- (xxiv) The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2020; and
- (xxv) The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2020.

and introduced following 6 Bills:-

- (i) The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
- (ii) The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
- (iii) The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
- (iv) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
- (v) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020; and
- (vi) The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Bill, 2020.

and withdrawn the following Bill:-

The Allied and Healthcare Professionals Bill, 2018.

6. Following fifteen newly elected/re-elected Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation in the House on the first day of the Session and joined the House:-

- (i) Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam);
- (ii) Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh);
- (iii) Shri Shibu Soren (Jharkhand);
- (iv) Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar (Kerala);
- (v) Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra);
- (vi) Dr. Wanweiroy Kharlukhi (Meghalaya);
- (vii) Shri N.R. Elango (Tamil Nadu);
- (viii) Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu);
- (ix) Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu (Tamil Nadu);
- (x) Dr. K. Keshava Rao (Telangana);
- (xi) Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy (Telangana);
- (xii) Shri Syed Zafar Islam (Uttar Pradesh);
- (xiii) Shri Jaiprakash Nishad (Uttar Pradesh);
- (xiv) Shri Dinesh Trivedi (West Bengal); and
- (xv) Shrimati Arpita Ghosh (West Bengal)

whereas, following newly elected Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation in the House on 16th September, 2020 and 20th September, 2020, respectively, and joined the House:-

- (i) Shrimati Mausam Noor (West Bengal); and
- (ii) Shri H.D. Devegowda (Karnataka)

7. The House also had the occasion to re-elect Shri Harivansh as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha on the 14th of September, 2020.

8. There were 66 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were laid during the Session. 92 matters were raised with the permission of the Chair.

9. The *suo motu* Statement made by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences on 15th September, 2020 on the issue of COVID-19 pandemic and the steps taken by the Government, was discussed at length for more than 4 hours on two consecutive

days, *i.e.* 16th and 17th September, 2020 in the form of a *Discussion* in which 28 Members participated.

10. The Defence Minister also made *suo motu* Statement on the Developments on our borders in Ladakh on 17th September, 2020 and Members sought clarifications thereafter.
11. The House bid farewell to 11 Members from the States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand who would be retiring in the month of November, 2020 on completion of their term of office.
12. On a motion moved by Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and adopted by the House, the following Members were suspended from the service of the House for the remaining part of the Session on the 21st of September, 2020 for their unruly behaviour and willfully obstruction of the proceedings of the House on 20th of September, 2020:—
 - (i) Shri Derek O'Brien
 - (ii) Shri Sanjay Singh;
 - (iii) Shri Rajeev Satav;
 - (iv) Shri K. K. Ragesh;
 - (v) Shri Syed Nasir Hussain;
 - (vi) Shri Ripun Bora;
 - (vii) Ms.Dola Sen; and
 - (viii) Shri Elamaram Kareem
13. A Notice of Motion for removal of the Deputy Chairman from Office submitted by the Leader of the Opposition and 46 other Members of the House was disallowed by the Chair, for not being in proper format and order.
14. In view of the limited functional time available and the special seating arrangements made for the current Session, the Hon'ble Chairman acceded to the request made by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for laying by him all the papers listed under the heading 'Papers to be Laid on the Table' and Statements by Ministers related to DRPSCs in the List of Business for the day in the name of other Ministers, on their behalf.
15. During the session some important papers like Report of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, New Delhi, for the year 2018-19; Thirty-fourth Progress Report on the Action taken Pursuant to recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (June, 2020); Annual Accounts of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi, for the year 2018-19, Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, Thirtieth Report of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), New Delhi, for the year 2018-19, Report of the Unique Identification Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2018-19, Report of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, Fortieth Report of the Press Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2018-19, Sixty-third Report of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Mumbai, for the year 2019-20, one Sensitive Notification, Statement of Market Borrowings by the Central Government for the year 2019-20 along with 29 CAG Reports were laid on the Table of the House.

16. 38 Statements on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees were laid on the Table of the House.
17. During the Session 1567 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.
18. The Chairman made references to the passing away of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India and former Member, Pandit Jasraj, renowned Indian classical vocalist, 4 sitting Members and 16 former Members of the Rajya Sabha. As a mark of respect to the memory of departed, the House was adjourned for one hour on 14th September, 2020 and for half an hour on 18th September, 2020.
19. The House felicitated the Indian Chess Team led by Vidit Santosh Gujrathi and comprising of Viswanathan Anand, Pentala Harikrishna, Aravindh Chithambaram, Nihal Sarin, Praggnanandhaa R., Koreru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika, Bhakti Kukarni, Vaishali R., Vantika Agarwal and Divya Deshmukh for winning the first ever Gold Medal and for being declared joint champions with Russia at the FIDE Chess Olympiad, 2020 which was held online, from the 24th of July to 30th of August, 2020.
20. Reference to the victims of natural calamities in different parts of the country was made by the Chair.
21. Reference on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy was also made by the Chair on the 15th of September, 2020.
22. Some procedural changes/arrangements, as given under were made to hold the 252nd Session during COVID-19 pandemic:—
 - (i) Hon'ble Chairman had broadened the meaning of "Precincts of the Council" under Rule 2(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) to meet requirement of social distancing norms during pandemic, and specified that the precincts of the Council shall also include Lok Sabha Chamber, its Lobbies and Galleries during the period of the 252nd Session of Rajya Sabha in view of the special seating arrangements for Members of Rajya Sabha in Lok Sabha Chamber, besides the Rajya Sabha Chamber and Galleries.
 - (ii) The Chair gave observations regarding timing of Calling Attention and submission of Notices of Special Mentions during the Session in view of change in timing of sitting of the House. The Chair also observed that Members whose notices for Special Mentions have been admitted, should lay the approved text when called by the Chair as the time for sittings of the House was restricted to four hours daily.
 - (iii) To comply with contact less correspondence during the pandemic period, meeting notices, parliamentary papers and other communications were circulated to all Members through their 'Member's Login Portal' created by NIC.

23. During the Session, more than 3 hours were lost due to occurrence of pandemonium during the passing of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. However, the time made up by the House by sitting beyond 1.00 P.M. was more than 4 hours.

Highlights of work transacted during the 252nd Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		01-09-2020
Duration of the Session		14-09-2020 to 23-09-2020
Number of actual days of sitting		10
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		More than 39 Hours
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		3 Hrs. 15 Mts.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		more than 4 Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions*		
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		1567
Half-an-Hour Discussions		-
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		6
No. of Bills withdrawn		1
No. of Bills passed/returned		25
No. of Bills referred to Select/Joint Committee		-
No. of Bills deferred		-
Oath/Affirmation		
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation		17
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		38
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		-
No. of Short Duration Discussions		-
No. of Special Mentions		66
No. of Matters raised with permission		92
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		1690

* Starred Questions and Private Members' Business were not transacted during 252nd Session.