

# RAJYA SABHA

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE 253<sup>RD</sup> SESSION

[ 29-01-2021 TO 12-02-2021  
&  
08-03-2021 TO 25-03-2021 ]

1. The 253<sup>rd</sup> Session (Budget Session) commenced on Friday, the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. The Session was held in two parts. The first part was scheduled to be held from 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. However, the sitting scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, was cancelled and instead a sitting was fixed for Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. Subsequently, that sitting was also cancelled and the first part of the Session concluded on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. The Second part, which commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and was scheduled to end on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 came to an early end on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. The sitting of the House was cancelled for one day on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, during the second part of the Session.
2. The time of sittings of the Rajya Sabha during the first part of the Session was from 9.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. except on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021 when the House sat from 3-00 P.M. and 1-55 P.M. respectively. The time of sittings of the Rajya Sabha for the opening day of the second part of the Session *i.e.* 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 was as of first part of the Session, *i.e.* 9.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. and from next day onwards, *i.e.* 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, the House resumed the usual timing of sittings *i.e.* 11.00 A.M. to 6.00 P.M. for rest of the sittings during second part of the Session.
3. The Session had 23 sittings in all and the House sat for more than 104 hours. During the Session, more than 21 hours were lost on issues like (a) spiralling fuel prices and farmers' protests over the three agricultural reform laws (b) steep rise in the price of essential commodities in the country (c) demand referring Insurance Bill to the Select Committee, etc. The House, however, made up this loss by sitting late for more than 13 hours to complete legislative and other important business.
4. Four Members *namely* Shri Subrata Bakshi, Shri Biswajit Daimary, Shri Dineshchandra Jemalbai Anavadiya and Shri Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya, elected/re-elected to the Rajya Sabha in the Biennial/Bye elections held in the States of West Bengal, Assam and Gujarat, respectively, made and subscribed oath/affirmation and took their seat in the House during the Session.
5. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignations of 3 elected Members of the House, *namely*, Shri Biswajit Daimary, Shri Jose K. Mani and Shri Dinesh Trivedi, representing the States of Assam, Kerala and West Bengal, and resignation of Shri Swapan Dasgupta, a Nominated Member of the House.
6. Three Members, *namely*, Shri Sanjay Singh, Shri Narain Dass Gupta and Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta were asked to withdraw immediately from the Council under Rule 255 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021.

7. The Chair made references on the (i) occasions of the completion of 100 years of representative democracy in our country, (ii) 'International Women's Day', (iii) 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' - a nationwide celebrations to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence, (iv) 'World Water Day', (v) victims of the crash of Sriwijaya Air Flight SJ182 into Java sea and (vi) nations endeavour to end Tuberculosis in the country by 2025.
8. The House paid tributes to the legendary heroes of our Freedom Movement, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, who attained martyrdom 90 years ago.
9. The Chair made references to the passing away of foreign dignitaries, *namely* - His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait; His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Bahrain; Mr. Amadou Toumani Toure, former President of Mali; Mr. Mamadou Tandja, former President of Niger; His Excellency Mr. Ambrose Madvulo Dlamini, former Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Eswatini. References were also made to the passing away of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Ahmed Patel, Shri Abhay Bharadwaj and Shri A. Mohammedjan, sitting Members; and **16** former Members of the Rajya Sabha and Shri S.P. Balasubramanyam, a renowned playback singer and music director.
10. The Chair offered felicitations to the Indian Cricket Team, in particular the young members of the Team for winning the recent test series against Australia.
11. The President addressed both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. The discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address took place for three days and lasted for more than 14 hours.
12. The House bade farewell to Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and three other Members, representing the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, who retired in the month of February, 2021. The House also bade farewell to three Members representing the State of Kerala who will be retiring on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 on expiration of their term of office in the Council of States.
13. The Union Budget, for the year 2021-22, was laid on the Table of the House on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021.
14. The General Discussion on the Union Budget for the year 2021-22, was spread over three days and lasted for more than 10 hours.
15. The Appropriation Bills were discussed in the House together with the Appropriation Bills of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry.
16. The House sat at 10.00 A.M., *i.e.*, one hour before the usual timing of sitting, especially, to discuss the Finance Bill, 2021, on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, the Zero Hour and Question Hour were dispensed with and the lunch hour was also skipped.
17. The House witnessed lively debates during the discussions on the working of the Ministries of Jal Shakti; Railways; and Tourism; which lasted more than 14-33 hours.

18. The House also passed or returned **19** Government Bills, *namely*, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021; the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2021; the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2021; the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021; the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021; the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021; the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2021; the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2021; the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2021; the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021; the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2021; the Appropriation Bill, 2021; the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2021; the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2021; the Puducherry Appropriation Bill, 2021; the Puducherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2021, the Finance Bill, 2021, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill, 2021 during the Session which demonstrated the desirability of careful deliberation through available instrumentalities and the benefits accruing from it. 3 Government Bills were also introduced.
19. There were 5 *suo motu* Statements by Ministers which were either made or laid. These Statements related to (i) avalanche in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand (ii) present situation in Eastern Ladakh (iii) recent developments pertaining to the welfare abroad of Indians, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in the COVID situation (iv) 'India's Vaccine Maitri Initiative' and (v) Vehicle Scrapping Policy. 12 Statements were made/laid on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Reports of various DRPS Committees.
20. There were about 109 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were made/laid during the Session. About 163 matters were also raised with the permission of the Chair.
21. During the Session, 319 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.
22. The Economic Survey, 2020-21(Volumes I and II); Fiscal Policy Statements, 2021-22; Report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission for the years 2020-21 to 2025-26; Thirty-fifth Progress Report on the Action Taken pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters related thereto (December, 2020); Report of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Report of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2018-19; Report of the Central Information Commission (CIC), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Report of the National Centre for Good Governance, New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Report of the National Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (NRLPS), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Report of the Coal India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2019-20; Report of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2019-20; Report of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, New Delhi, for the year 2018-19; Report of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, for the year 2018; Report of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, for the year 2018; Reports of the 36<sup>th</sup>

International Geological Congress (36 IGC), New Delhi, for the years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19; Report of the Competition Commission of India, New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Report of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Report of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Report of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20 and few CAG Reports, were some of the important Reports that were laid on the Table of the House during the Session.

23. Some of the following procedural changes/arrangements, as announced by the Chair, from time to time during the Session, were made to hold the 253<sup>rd</sup> Session during COVID-19 pandemic:—
- (i) Normal seating arrangements with fixed Seat/Division Nos. were dispensed with as was done in the previous Session. The number of seats for each party at different places, *i.e.* Rajya Sabha Chamber, Rajya Sabha Galleries and Lok Sabha Chamber, were fixed as per their numerical strength. Members were requested to raise their hands, introduce themselves and also announce the place of their sitting before taking part in a discussion so that they can be identified easily. Members were allowed to speak while sitting which was not done normally but this was an arrangement made since the last Session.
  - (ii) Minister of Parliament Affairs and Ministers of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were authorized by the Chair for the entire Session to lay all papers to be laid on the Table and all Statements related to the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees on behalf of the Ministers concerned as appeared in the list of business of the House on each day of Session.
  - (iii) To comply with contact less correspondence during the pandemic period, meeting notices, parliamentary papers and other communications were circulated electronically to all Members through 'Members' Portal'.
  - (iv) Members were informed about the resumption of normal time of sittings of the Rajya Sabha from 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and also about the discontinuation of their seating in the Lok Sabha Chamber. Members were also requested to sit in the Rajya Sabha Chamber and its Galleries with some distancing from 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.
24. During the Session, **329** Starred Questions and **3520** Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these **113** Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be held on **5** days to take up discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, cancellation of sittings, discussion on the Finance Bill and pandemonium and interruptions in the House over one or the other issue. **2** Statements by Ministers correcting answers to questions were also laid during the Session.

## Highlights of work transacted during the 253<sup>rd</sup> Session – At a glance

<b>Sittings</b>	
Date of issue of Summons	14-01-2021
Duration of the Session	29-01-2021 to 12-02-2021 and 08-03-2021 to 25-03-2021
Number of actual days of sitting	23
Actual Hours of sittings ( <i>excluding recess intervals</i> )	104 Hrs. 23 Mts.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments	21 Hrs. 07 Mts.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess	13 Hrs. 07 Mts.
Date of prorogation of Session	29-03-2021
<b>Questions</b>	
No. of Starred Questions listed	329
No. of Starred Questions answered orally	113
No. of Unstarred Questions answered	3520
Short Notice Questions	-
Half-an-Hour Discussions	-
<b>Government Bills</b>	
No. of Bills introduced	3
No. of Bills withdrawn	-
No. of Bills passed/returned	19
No. of Bills referred to Select Committee	-
No. of Bills deferred	-
<b>Oath/Affirmation</b>	
No. of Members made and subscribed oath/affirmation	4
<b>Statements by Ministers</b>	
No. of <i>suo motu</i> Statements made/laid by Ministers	5
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	310
<b>Matters of public importance raised</b>	
No. of Calling Attentions	-
No. of Short Duration Discussions	-
No. of Special Mentions	109
No. of Matters raised with permission	163
Submission by Members	-
<b>Papers Laid on the Table</b>	7920

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