

RAJYA SABHA
STATISTICAL INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO THE 254TH SESSION
[19-07-2021 to 11-08-2021]

1. The 254th (Monsoon) Session commenced on Monday, the 19th of July, 2021 and was scheduled to conclude on 13th August, 2021. The Session, however, came to an early end on the 11th August, 2021.
2. The Session had 17 sittings in all and the House sat for 28 Hours 33 Minutes. During the Session, 76 hours and 25 minutes were lost on issues like (a) Pegasus snooping controversy (b) demand for repealing of new farm laws (c) uncontrolled fuel price and price rise of essential commodities (d) demand for special category status for Andhra Pradesh, *etc.*
3. The House was informed about the nomination of Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Minister of Textiles, as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.
4. The Prime Minister introduced his Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State (Independent Charge) and Ministers of State to the House amidst pandemonium in the House and the list containing the names of the Ministers was laid on the Table.
5. On the opening day of the Session, the Chair observed *inter-alia* that COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in multitude of adverse effects on the lives and livelihood of the people of the country and on the economies across the globe. The Chairman also apprised Members about the continuing COVID protocols during the Session *viz.*, special seating arrangements and non-circulation of Parliamentary papers in physical form to avoid infection. The Chair also observed the status and percentage of vaccination done by the Members of Parliament against the pandemic.
6. The House was informed by the Chair about the resignation tendered by 5 elected Members of the House, *namely*, Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia, representing the State of West Bengal; Shri R. Vaithilingam and Shri K.P. Munusamy, representing the State of Tamil Nadu; Shri Biswajit Daimary, representing the State of Assam and Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, the then Leader of the House, representing the State of Madhya Pradesh.
7. Shri Abdual Wahab, Kerala and Shri Jawhar Sircar, West Bengal re-elected/newly elected Members in Biennial/Bye Elections made and subscribed Oath/Affirmation during the Session and took their seats in the House.
8. The Chairman made references to the passing away of Dr. Raghunath Mohapatra and Shri Rajeev Satav, sitting Members, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, former President and former Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Dr. Kenneth David Buchizhya Kaunda, Founding Father and First President of the Republic of Zambia and 17 former Members of the Rajya Sabha and the legendary track and field sprinter, Shri Milkha Singh. The House observed silence and adjournment

for one hour after obituary references made to the passing away of sitting Members on the first day of the Session in the House.

9. The following two issues were taken up in the House in the form of Short Duration Discussion; wherein 26 Members participated:-
 - (i) the management of COVID-19 pandemic, implementation of vaccination policy and challenges of the likely third wave; and
 - (ii) the agricultural problems and solutions (*discussion was not concluded*).
10. The Chair made a reference on the occasion of 22nd Anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas and 79th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement during the Session.
11. The Chair also made references in the House for the historic Rudreshwara Temple popularly known as Ramappa Temple, situated near Warangal District in Telangana and for the Harappan era city of Dholavira in Rann of Kutch situated in Gujarat, for being accorded the status of World Heritage sites in India by the UNESCO.
12. The Chair congratulated the Indian Olympic contingent who participated in Tokyo Olympic Games, 2020 on their commendable performance and felicitated Shri Neeraj Chopra for winning the Gold Medal in Javelin Throw event; Ms. Mirabai Chanu for winning the Silver Medal in the 49-kg category Weightlifting event; Shri Ravi Kumar Dahiya for winning the Silver Medal in the 57-kg category of Men's Freestyle Wrestling event; and also the Bronze Medal winners *viz.*, Ms. P.V. Sindhu in the Women's Singles Badminton event; Ms. Lovlina Borgohain in the Welterweight category of Women's Boxing event; Indian Men's Hockey Team and Shri Bajrang Punia in the 65-kg Men's Freestyle Wrestling event.
13. During the Session, the House passed the following 19 Government Bills:-
 - (i) the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021;
 - (ii) the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2021;
 - (iii) the Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (iv) the Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (v) the Inland Vessels Bill, 2021;
 - (vi) the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (vii) the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (viii) the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (ix) the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (x) the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (xi) the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021;
 - (xii) the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021;
 - (xiii) the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021;
 - (xiv) the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
 - (xv) the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021;

- (xvi) the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Amendment) Bill, 2021;
- (xvii) the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021;
- (xviii) the National Commission for Homoeopathy (Amendment) Bill, 2021; and
- (xix) the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

The following 4 Bills were introduced in the Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) the Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
- (ii) the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2021;
- (iii) the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021; and
- (iv) the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Also, the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Amendment Bill, 2012, which was introduced and pending in the Rajya Sabha was withdrawn.

14. There were 11 Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance which were laid during the Session. Further, 4 matters were raised with the permission of the Chair (Zero Hour submissions).
15. 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, Dr. Santanu Sen, Member, was suspended from the services of the House *w.e.f.* 23rd July, 2021 for the remaining part of the Session for his unruly behaviour and unbecoming of a member.
16. On the 4th August, 2021, the Chair, under Rule 255 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), directed the following Members to withdraw from the House:-
 - (i) Ms. Dola Sen
 - (ii) Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
 - (iii) Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
 - (iv) Shrimati Shanta Chhetri
 - (v) Ms. Arpita Ghosh
 - (vi) Shrimati Mausam Noor
17. During the session, some important papers apart from regular nature of papers like reports of the universities, institutes, companies *etc.*; - Report of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Liquidator's Report on voluntary winding up of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the period from 01.01.2021 to 31.03.2021; Report of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), New Delhi, for the year ending 31st of December, 2020; Report of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; Thirty-sixth Progress Report on the Action Taken Pursuant to the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto (June, 2021); Report of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, New Delhi, for the year 2019-20, Statement on Half Yearly Review of trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget at the end of the Financial Year 2020-21, Report of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Mumbai, for the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.02.2021; Reports of the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; first time reports like - Report of the Coalition

for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, New Delhi, for the year 2019-20 and Report of the Lokpal of India, New Delhi, for the year 2019-20; and one Sensitive Notification; Statement of Market Borrowings by the Central Government for the year 2020-21; along with 8 CAG Reports were laid on the Table of the House.

18. One statement was made by the concerned Minister regarding compromise of phone data of some persons as reported in the media. Apart from that during the Session, 110 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 including the Reports of the Joint Committee on Office of Profit.
19. Some of the following procedural changes/arrangements, as announced by the Chair, from time to time during the Session, were made to hold the 254th Session during COVID-19 pandemic:—
 - (i) Special Seating Arrangements were made for the Session with Members being seated with some physical distancing in the Rajya Sabha Chamber and Rajya Sabha Galleries. No fixed Seat/Division No. was allotted to individual Members. The number of seats for each party in the Rajya Sabha Chamber and Rajya Sabha Galleries was fixed as per their numerical strength for allocation amongst their Members. Members were requested to make use of their Identity Card (I.C.) No. instead of Division No. while submitting notices on various parliamentary devices, in other communications and also in the Division Slips used during Voting in the House.
 - (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) As per the orders of the Chairman, the lists of matters to be raised with permission (Zero Hour submissions) and Special Mentions notices permitted by the Chairman on matters of public importance which could not be taken up due to continuous disruptions in the proceedings of the House were included in the Parliamentary Bulletin Part-I for the day *w.e.f.* 29th July, 2021. Prior to that, on 28th July, 2021, the total number of respective matters which could not be taken up was mentioned in Parliament Bulletin Part-I.

20. During the Session, 252 Starred Questions and 2711 Unstarred Questions were admitted and answered. Of these 51 Starred Questions were orally answered. Question Hour could not be taken up for 5 days due to adjournment and continuous disruptions in the House. Question Hour was also dispensed with on 11th August, 2021 to take up the Government Legislative Business. Two statements by the Ministers correcting answers to Questions were also laid on the Table during the Session.

Highlights of work transacted during the 254th Session – At a glance

Sittings		
Date of issue of Summons		02-07-2021
Duration of the Session		19-07-2021 to 11-08-2021
Number of actual days of sitting		17
Actual Hours of sittings (<i>excluding recess intervals</i>)		28 Hrs. 33 Mts.
Time lost due to interruptions/adjournments		76 Hrs. 25 Mts.
Time made up by late sittings/skipping lunch recess		more than 3 Hrs.
Date of prorogation of Session		-
Questions		
No. of Starred Questions listed		252
No. of Starred Questions answered orally		51
No. of Unstarred Questions answered		2711
Short Notice Questions		-
Half-an-Hour Discussions		-
Government Bills		
No. of Bills introduced		4
No. of Bills withdrawn		1
No. of Bills passed/returned		19
No. of Bills referred to Select/Joint Committee		-
No. of Bills deferred		-
Private Members' Business		
No. of Bills introduced		Nil
No. of Bills part discussed (Under consideration)		Nil
No. of Bills withdrawn/negatived		Nil
No. of Resolution part discussed		Nil
No. of Resolution withdrawn/negatived		Nil
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		1
No. of Statements laid regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees		58
Matters of public importance raised		
No. of Calling Attentions		-
No. of Short Duration Discussions		2
No. of Special Mentions		11
No. of Matters raised with permission		4
Submission by Members		-
Papers Laid on the Table		3864