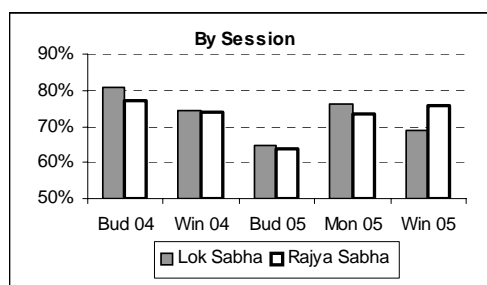


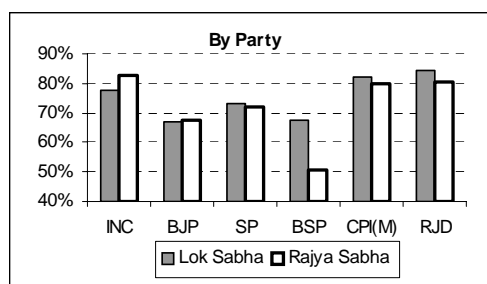
Vital Stats

Attendance Record of Members of Parliament

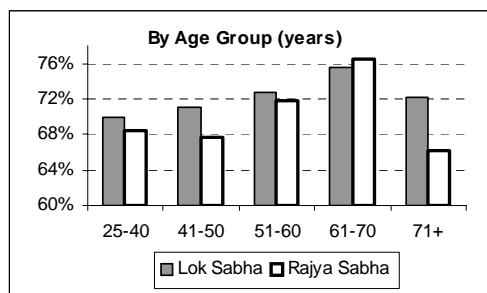
Do Members of Parliament (MPs) attend Parliament regularly? Are there certain attendance patterns based on party affiliation, education or profession? Do younger MPs attend more often? We attempt to answer these questions using data from June 2004 to December 2006.



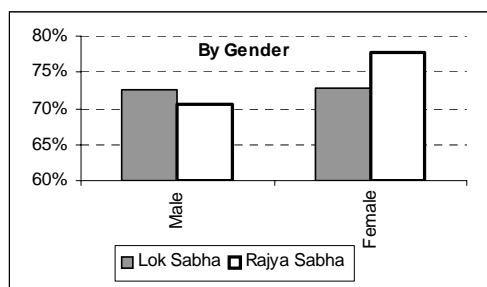
- The average attendance in both Houses falls between 70% and 75%.
- There is no significant difference in average attendance between the Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Attendance was highest in the first session of the new government, and has dipped slightly since then.



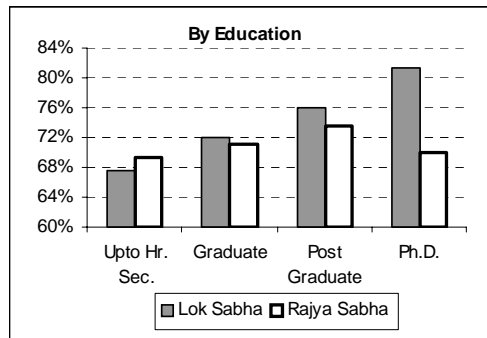
- Among the six largest parties, Rashtriya Janata Dal and CPI(M) had the best attendance record.
- This was followed by the Congress.
- BJP and BSP had the lowest average attendance.



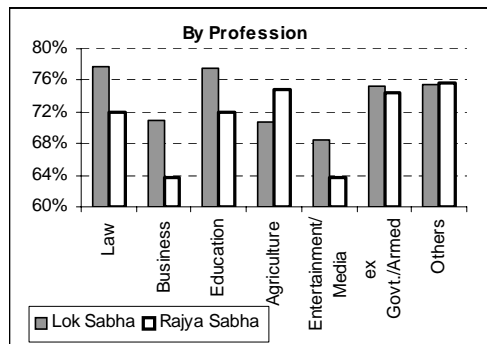
- The best attendance profile, by age, in both the Houses of Parliament is in the age group 61-70 years.
- Young MPs (below 40 years age) have the lowest attendance in Lok Sabha, at 70%.



- Female MPs have a better attendance (78%) in Rajya Sabha than their male counterparts (71%).
- There is no significant difference between female and male MPs attendance in Lok Sabha.



- In Lok Sabha, the average attendance is correlated with the highest educational qualification of the Member.
- In Rajya Sabha too, the attendance record of MPs improves with educational qualification, except in the case of MPs holding a doctoral degree.



- Lawyers and educationists have the best attendance record in Lok Sabha.
- Retired bureaucrats and servicemen have above-average attendance (about 75%) in both Houses.
- Lowest attendance is recorded by MPs who are engaged in industry/business or media and entertainment, many of whom have an active career.

Notes:

1. PRS obtained the data from the Lok Sabha Secretariat and Rajya Sabha Secretariat on requests made under The Right to Information Act, 2005.
2. The data is for the period from June 2004, after the last General Elections.
3. An MP is recorded as having attended Parliament on a particular day, if he signs the attendance register that day. Some MPs – the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister, all Ministers, and the Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses do not sign the register, and the data excludes their attendance.
4. Age, educational qualifications and profession are based on the biodatas of MPs posted on the websites of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
5. For our party-wise analysis, PRS has detailed the records of parties having more than 15 seats (excluding Ministers) in Lok Sabha. These are Indian National Congress (INC), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Communist Party of India Marxist (CPIM) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). Even though, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has 16 Members in Lok Sabha, seven of them are ministers, and do not sign the attendance register.
6. Many MPs have multiple professions, e.g., agriculture, law and education. We have categorised MPs in each of their declared professions. There is one exception – a large proportion of MPs include social service or public service as one of their professions; we have excluded this category from our analysis.

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