

Vital Stats

Parliament Budget Session 2012

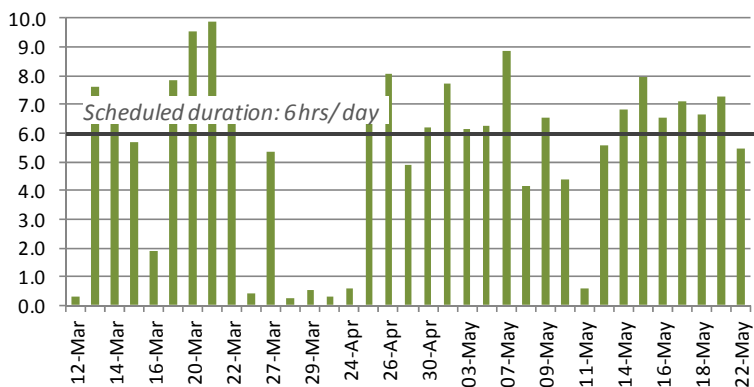
Parliament met for the Budget Session between March 16 and May 22 with a three-week recess in April. Both Houses met for 35 days each. A special sitting was convened on Sunday, May 13 to commemorate 60 years since the first sitting of Parliament.

In addition to the General and Railways Budgets, Parliament introduced and passed several Bills. The Rajya Sabha discussed two motions related to Rules and Regulations.

We present some statistics from the concluded session.

Productive time higher than previous sessions

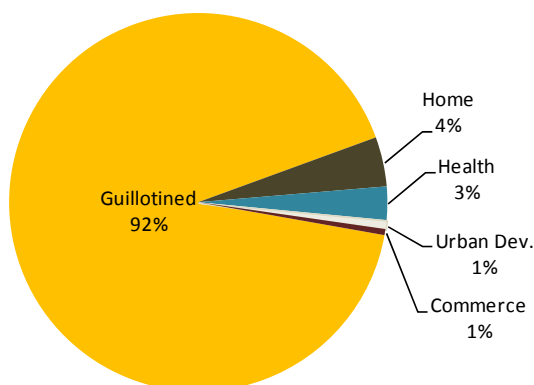
Productive time in Lok Sabha



- Total productive time in Lok Sabha was 187 hours - 89% of scheduled time. This is significantly higher than the productive time registered in the last few sessions. For instance, productive time during the winter session of 2011 was 67% of scheduled time.
- Similar to Lok Sabha, productive time in Rajya Sabha was higher than in previous sessions. Rajya Sabha worked for 164 hours this session (94% of scheduled time).
- Of the total productive time in Lok Sabha, 15 hours were spent on the President's address, 62 hours on budget discussions and 27 hours on other legislation.
- In comparison, Rajya Sabha spent 33 hours on budget discussions and 27 hours on legislation.

92% of Budget demands passed without discussion in Lok Sabha

Discussion on Demands for Grants in Lok Sabha



- Parliament usually does not have time to discuss the budgetary proposals of each Ministry (Demands for Grants). Demands of only a few Ministries are discussed at length. The rest are 'guillotined', i.e. put to vote without any discussion.
- This year, demands of four ministries – Commerce and Industry, Health and Family Welfare, Home Affairs, and Urban Development – were taken up for discussion.
- The remaining, i.e. 92% of the total demands, were guillotined. The budgetary allocations made in this manner amount to a total of Rs 11.8 lakh crore.
- In 2011, 81% of the Demands had been guillotined.

More than 100 Bills pending in Parliament

Table: Time spent on Bills passed by Parliament (Hrs:Min)

Bill	LS	RS
The Right to Education (Amendment) Bill	04:21	02:35
The Constitution (ST) Order (2nd Amendment) Bill	03:53	01:18
The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill	03:00	02:38
The Central Educational Institutions Amendment Bill	02:42	01:31
The Copyright (Amendment) Bill	02:04	02:36
The Railway Property Amendment Bill	02:02	02:16
The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill	01:51	01:07
The Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill	00:45	01:07
The Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill	00:06	00:06
The NE Areas (Reorganisation) (Amendment) Bill	00:05	00:58
The National Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill	00:03	01:21
The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill	00:03	01:21

Note: To know more about a Bill, click the corresponding hyperlink

- At the beginning of the session, the government's agenda had listed 39 pending Bills for consideration and passing. It had also listed 30 new Bills for introduction (*This was in addition to Finance and Appropriation Bills*).
- During the session, a total of 12 Bills were passed by Parliament. The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2010; The Right to Education (Amendment) Bill, 2012; and The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, 2011 were among those passed during the session.
- Rajya Sabha passed a motion to refer the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2011 to a Select Committee of the House. The Bill had been passed by Lok Sabha last year.
- The government introduced 17 new Bills. These include The Piracy Bill, 2012; The Public Procurement, 2012 and The Micro Finance Institutions Bill, 2012.
- At the end of this session, 101 Bills are pending in Parliament.

Two Motions on Rules and Regulations discussed in Rajya Sabha

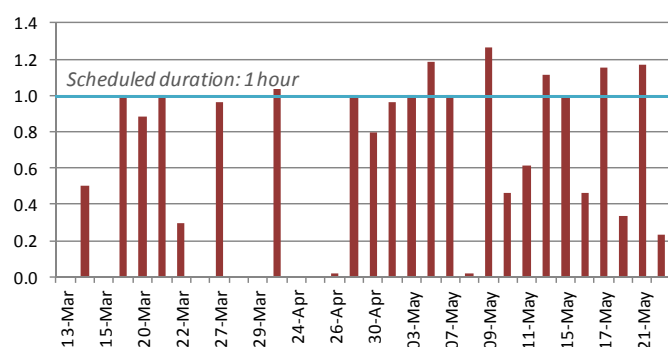
Table: Time spent on discussion (Hrs:Min)

Rules	Duration of discussion
Motion for annulment of Rules notified under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000	01:35
Motion for modification of Rules notified under Section 43 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994	02:11

- Rules and Regulations are notified by the government under existing legislation in order to implement and administer the requirements of the legislation. Rules have equal effect in law and are subject to scrutiny and review by Parliament.
- During this session, a motion to annul Rules notified under the Information Technology Act, 2000 was moved in Rajya Sabha. The Rules prohibit content of specific nature on the internet and require intermediaries to block such content. The motion was discussed and negated by the House.
- Another motion for the modification of Rules notified under the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 was moved in Rajya Sabha. These Rules pertained to the levy of airport development fees by private developers. This motion was also negated by the House.
- The Chairman called this a distinct feature of the session, as such motions had not been used in the past few years.

No starred questions were answered orally in Rajya Sabha on 11 days

Question Hour in Rajya Sabha



- Question Hour was often disrupted in both Houses. No starred questions were answered orally in Rajya Sabha on 11 out of the 32 scheduled days. In Lok Sabha this happened on three days.
- Of the total 660 starred questions admitted this session in the Rajya Sabha, only 104 were answered on the floor of the House (16% of total).
- In comparison, 12% of starred questions received an oral response in Lok Sabha

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