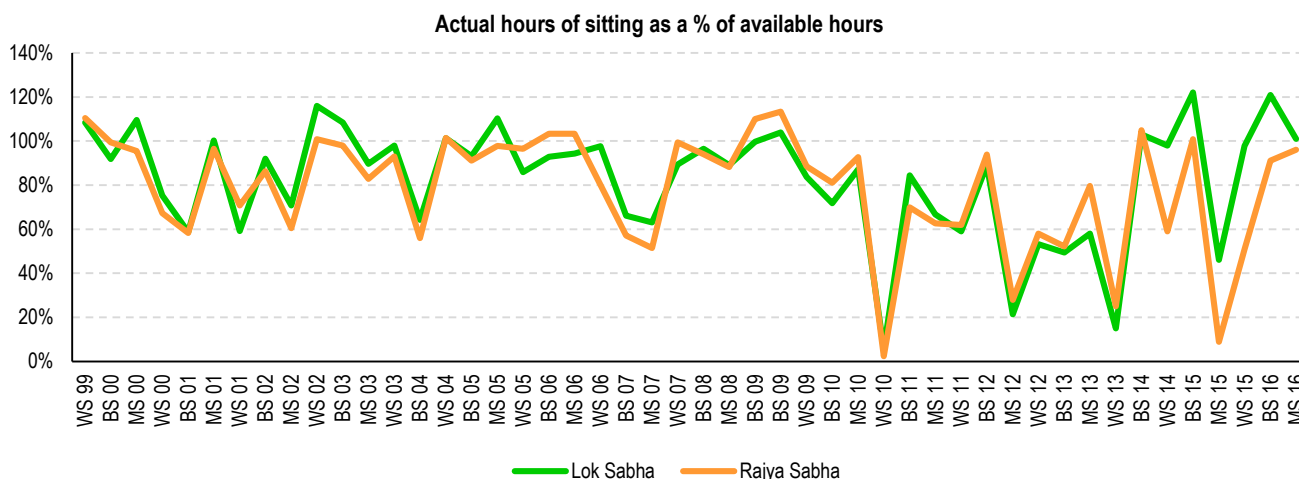


# Vital Stats

## Parliament during Monsoon Session 2016

The Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on August 12, 2016. The session had 20 sittings, during which various Bills were passed, including a Constitutional Amendment Bill enabling the levy of a Goods and Services Tax (GST). Parliament also discussed various issues, such as inflation and the New Education Policy. This note presents statistics on Parliament productivity during Monsoon Session 2016.

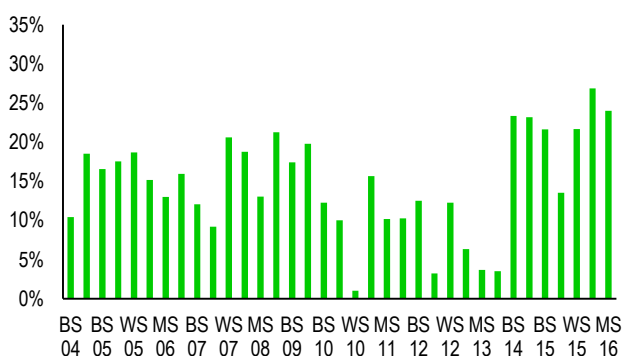
### Lok Sabha's productivity was 101%; Rajya Sabha's productivity was 96%



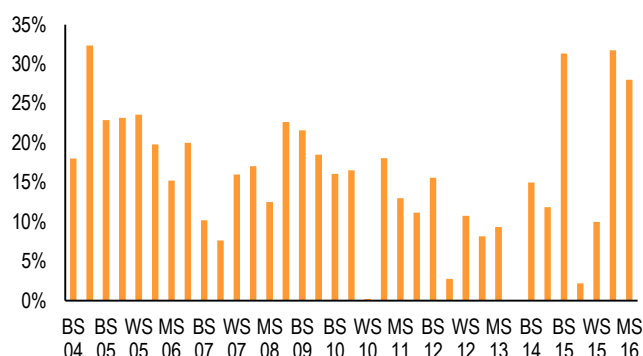
- Before this Session, Rajya Sabha had met for 76% of its scheduled time in the current Parliament (since May 2014), and Lok Sabha for 102%. During this session, Rajya Sabha met for 96% and Lok Sabha for 101% of their scheduled time. This implies that lesser time was lost to disruptions.
- During the session, both Houses sat for extra hours on most days. Out of 20 days, Lok Sabha sat beyond its scheduled time on 11 days, while Rajya Sabha sat beyond its scheduled time on 14 days.

### Both Houses witnessed one of the most productive Question Hours since 2004

% of questions orally answered in Lok Sabha



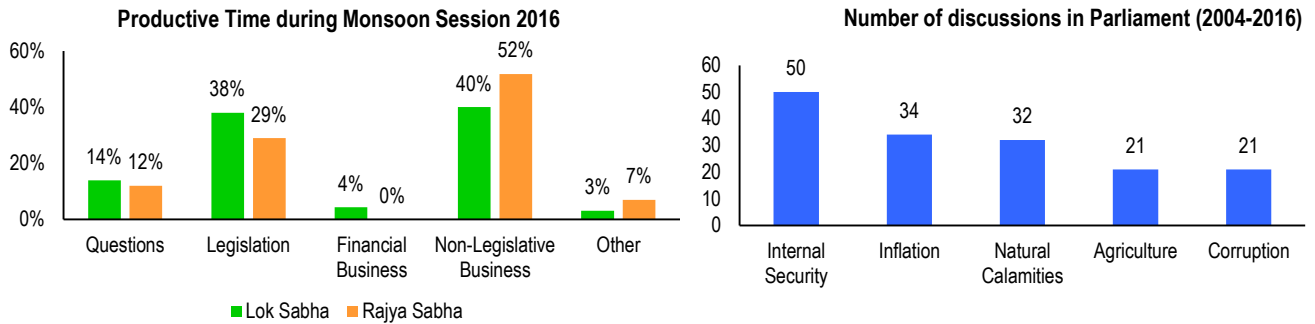
% of questions orally answered in Rajya Sabha



Note: Oral questions listed in Rajya Sabha were decreased from 20 per day to 15 per day in the winter session of 2014.

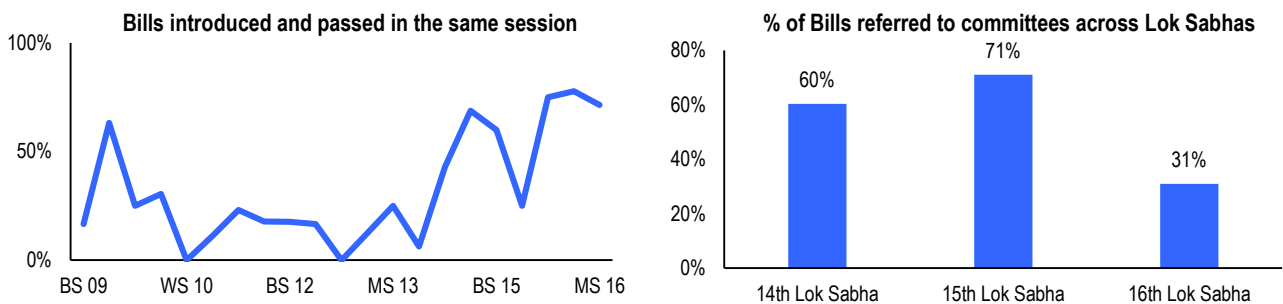
- During the session, 25% (98) of the questions were orally answered in Lok Sabha, while 28% (84) of the questions were answered in Rajya Sabha.
- Question Hour in Lok Sabha functioned for 88% of its scheduled time, while in Rajya Sabha it functioned for 69% of its scheduled time.
- Business in Rajya Sabha, including Question Hour, was suspended on August 10 to discuss the recent incidents in Kashmir. This is the second time in the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha that Question Hour was suspended for a debate. Earlier, business was suspended during Budget Session 2014 to discuss inflation.

### Both Houses spent majority of their time discussing various issues



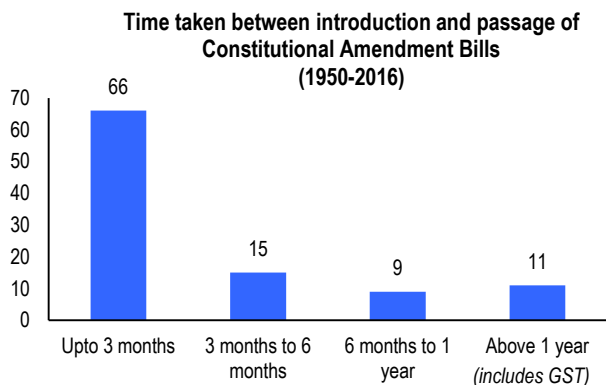
- Rajya Sabha spent 52% of its time, and Lok Sabha 40% of its time on discussing issues such as inflation, and atrocities against Dalits. The recent incidents in Kashmir were debated on for a total of 16 hours, in both Houses.
- Parliament has been discussing several issues regularly, since 2004. These include internal security (50 instances), inflation (34) and natural calamities (32).

### 8 Bills introduced and passed within the session; fewer Bills being referred to committees



- Parliament passed 14 Bills during the session. These include a Constitutional Amendment Bill to enable the levy of GST. Parliament discussed this Bill for a total of 20 hours, across two Parliamentary sessions.
- 14 Bills were introduced, of which seven were passed during the session. These include the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, which was passed in less than half an hour in each House. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill and the Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Bill were introduced and passed by one House on the same day.
- So far in 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, 31% of the Bills introduced have been referred to a Parliamentary committee. 71% of the Bills in 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha and 60% of the Bills in 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha were examined by a committee. During this session, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for detailed examination.

### Parliament passed a Constitutional Amendment Bill, to enable the levy of GST



- The GST Constitutional Amendment Bill is one amongst the 11 Constitutional amendments that took more than a year to be passed. There have been a total of 101 amendments to the Constitution.
- Other constitutional amendments that took over a year to get passed by Parliament provided for the Right to Education, and State Level Rent Control Tribunals, etc.
- In the past, three amendments have been passed by Parliament in less than a day, relating to proclamation of emergency in states and inclusion of languages. An amendment related to co-operative societies took over two years to get passed.

Data sources: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites as on August 12, 2016; India Code, Ministry of Law and Justice.

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