

**17.07 hrs.**

**Title:** References made on the conclusion of the Eleventh Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Eleventh Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2002, is coming to an end today. In this Session, we had very fruitful discussions on various important subjects. I would like to compliment leaders of all parties and each and every Member of the House for extending their help in maintaining dignity and decorum by way of exercising self-restraint and helping in the transaction of business of the House in an orderly manner without wasting precious time of the House.

During the Session, the House had a total of 23 sittings spread over about 160 hours. In the course of the Session, the Lok Sabha transacted several important items of financial, legislative and other business. In the financial sphere, the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2002-2003 were passed with the full co-operation of the House.

Substantial legislative work was completed by the Lok Sabha during this Session. In all, the Lok Sabha gave approval to 37 Bills. The significant among them being the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Bill, 2002; the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill, 2002; The Constitution (Ninety-Third Amendment) Bill, 2001, which, *inter alia* provides for free and compulsory education to children in the age group of six to 14 years; the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2002; the Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002; the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 2002; the Freedom of Information Bill, 2002; the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2002; the Competition Bill, 2001; and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002.

The House had useful debates under Rule 193 on five matters of urgent public importance, viz., (i) Recent political developments in the State of Uttar Pradesh, (ii) Problems being faced by the farmers in the country, (iii) Internal Security, (iv) Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings, and (v) Problems being faced by the sugarcane growers in the country.

Keeping in view the demands from the Opposition Parties, two Adjournment Motions regarding (i) Communal tension in the country, especially in Gujarat and (ii) Unprecedented drought situation in the country, were admitted. After long debates, the House negatived both the Adjournment Motions by voice vote.

Seven important matters were raised by the Members by way of Calling Attention and the concerned Ministers made statements thereon.

Though Rule 372 does not provide for clarifications on Statements made by Ministers, as a special case, 26 Members were allowed to seek clarifications on a statement made by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister regarding attack on Raghunath Mandir, Jammu on 24 November, 2002. Thirteen Statements were made by Ministers including the hon. Prime Minister, on different issues of urgent public importance.

As regards the Question Hour, out of 461 Starred Questions listed, 76 were orally answered in the House. 5089 Unstarred Questions were admitted. Two Short Notice Questions were orally answered in the House. Two Half-an-hour discussions were also held.

Hon. Members, you may recall that during the Ninth Session, I had emphasised on the need to take up more number of Starred Questions for oral answers and requested you to put pointed and brief supplementaries. You will be glad to know that during this Session, with your cooperation, on an average, four Starred Questions were orally answered. The percentage of orally answered Starred Questions has thus increased to 16 per cent as against 9 per cent and 11 per cent during the previous two Sessions respectively.

In so far as the Private Members' Bills are concerned, seven Bills were introduced during this Session. Two Bills (i) to prevent spread of Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was discussed and withdrawn; and (ii) seeking to amend the Constitution with a view to making Uniform Civil Code enforceable throughout the country was inconclusively debated.

As regards Private Members' Resolutions, one Resolution regarding 'Ban on cow slaughter' was further discussed in this Session.

Members made 237 'Special Mentions' under Rule 377, while 236 matters of urgent public importance were raised by Members during the 'Zero Hour'.

During this Session, the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented 42 Reports.

In response to the unanimous demand made in the House on 10 December, 2002 regarding issue of assault on Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, M.P. on 9 December, 2002 in New Delhi, a 15-Member Committee headed by Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Member was constituted to inquire into the incident. The Committee has since submitted its Report to the House today morning.

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction for me to inform the hon. Members that this Session has been very fruitful. A comparison with the previous two Winter Sessions of 2000 and 2001 would show that the House transacted, with the cooperation of all of you, much more business in this Session. For example, while Lok Sabha passed 17 and 11 Bills respectively, in 2000 and 2001 Winter Sessions, during the current Winter Session, the Lok Sabha gave approval to 37 Bills. This itself is a record in the last 30 years. We have had five Short Duration Discussions under Rule 193 during this Session as against two and four discussions in 2000 and 2001. In addition, two Adjournment Motions were discussed in the House.

As you are aware, in the previous two Sessions, precious time of the House was lost due to interruptions for about 28 hours and 36 hours respectively. During this Session there was a considerable decline in this. Only three hours were lost due to interruptions. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction to all of us that, in addition, the House sat late on 17 days, putting in more than 24 hours extra to transact the essential business of the House.

It is certainly an achievement which could not have been possible without the consensus that had emerged at the meeting of the leaders of parties held on the eve of the commencement of this Session and the cooperation extended by all of you during this Session.

I take this opportunity to gratefully thank all the hon. Members for their self-discipline and collective wisdom which made the Session a grand success. I am confident that this gesture of self-discipline will continue to become the guiding force in the effective functioning of the House in the days to come.

I am very grateful to the hon. Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the leaders and Deputy leaders of various parties in the House as also their Chief Whips and Whips and indeed to each and every member of the House for their kind cooperation extended to me and to my colleagues, the hon. Deputy Speaker and members of the Panel of Chairmen in conducting the proceedings of the House in a smooth and orderly manner during this Eleventh Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

I would like to express appreciation and thanks to the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and allied agencies for their valuable support in this regard. I also thank the media for the cooperation extended by them.

Let us reiterate our resolve to further strengthen the foundations of the institution of Parliament, so as to enable it to realise the aspirations of our people.

May I now wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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### **17.17 hrs. NATIONAL SONG**

Hon. Members may now stand up as '*Vande Mataram*' would be played. Thank you.

*(The National Song was played.)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

### **17.18 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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