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Title : The Speaker made Valedictory Reference on the conclusion of 8th Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Eighth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 24 July 2006 is coming to a close today. In all, as many as 22 sittings lasting for about 123 hours were held.

During this Session, the House transacted important items of Legislative, Financial, and other business. The Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) and (Railways) for 2006-2007 were voted by the House, and the related Appropriation Bills passed after discussions lasting for over six hours and four hours respectively.

One Adjournment Motion regarding "Failure of the Government to ensure security of the lives of innocent citizens from planned terrorist violence in various parts of the country as has been sharply highlighted by the recent serial bomb blasts in seven local trains in Mumbai on 11 July 2006 killing more than 200 persons and injuring over 700" was discussed in the House. The Motion was negatived after a debate lasting over six hours.

During this Session, the House passed 17 Bills. Some of the more important Bills passed were the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005; Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006; Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2005; the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006, apart from the Bill passed just now.

The House also had long and structured debates lasting over 23 hours and 31 minutes on five important matters of Urgent Public Importance under Rule 193. These debates were on (i) Rise in prices of essential commodities; (ii) Report of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry regarding alleged disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Memorandum of Action Taken by the Government on the Report laid on the Table of the House on 17 May 2006; (iii) Widespread distress among the farmers in the country; (iv) Regarding Indo-US Nuclear Agreement; and (v) Report of the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority and Action Taken Report thereon laid on the Table of the House on 7 August 2006, which, however, has remained part discussed.

During the current Session, nine important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention, in response to which the concerned Ministers made statements. In addition, as many as 36 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects. The Prime Minister also made a statement regarding situation in Lebanon. On 31 July 2006, the House also unanimously adopted a Resolution on the matter.

As regards Private Members Business, as many as 24 Private Members Bills were introduced during this Session. Two Bills, namely, the Crop Insurance Bill, 2005 and Safai Karamacharis Insurance Scheme Bill, 2005 were discussed before being withdrawn by leave of the House. One Bill, namely, the Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill, 2004 remained part discussed. A Private Members Resolution urging the Government to recommend for taking steps for balanced and equitable development of all parts of the country also remained part discussed.

During this Session, 440 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 57 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 2.4 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to 3,675 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. One Short Notice Question was also taken up. In this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 18 Reports.

About 298 Matters of Urgent Public Importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour even by sitting late in the night. It has always been my endeavour to provide all opportunities to the hon. Members for raising matters of urgent public concern subject to topicality of the issues, and the available time. Hon. Members also raised 232 Matters under Rule 377[ak28].

In this Session, we lost over 36 hours and 33 minutes of time due to interruptions and adjournments. To compensate the loss of time due to cancellation of sittings of the House on 28, 29, and 30 August, 2006, on a proposal made by me at the meeting with the Leaders of Parties and Groups in Lok Sabha held on 28 July, 2006, and agreed to by the Leaders, the House sat late for two hours every day from 1 August to 18 August, 2006, which facilitated disposal of the listed business. Nevertheless, despite all efforts of the Chair and collective commitment of the Members for effectively participating in the debates with due diligence, we could not discuss some important matters due to frequent interruptions and forced adjournments in the House.

At this juncture, it is with great anguish and pain that I make mention of the unfortunate incident that occurred in this august Chamber yesterday, 24 August, 2006. The House was adjourned by me at 1.10 p.m. due to the disturbances and pandemonium which took place in the House when some Members took exception to the remarks made by another hon.

Member. It is a matter of greatest sorrow for me and also concern, as was reported to me, that after the House was adjourned, some Members hurled abuses at and attempted to manhandle each other. I have expunged the objectionable remarks from the proceedings forthwith and when the House again met, I have also strongly condemned the unsavoury behaviour of those Members as being derogatory to the dignity of the House.

I once again strongly deplore this conduct and plead with all sections of the House that we should conduct ourselves in a manner befitting our status and, I feel, by doing so we would not only be enhancing our dignity but also the dignity of this great institution.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that for effective functioning of a parliamentary democracy, the participation of the Opposition is imperative. While conceding a Member's right to ventilate his anguish on any particular issue, I would like to emphasise that there is no better alternative or substitute other than a structured debate and discussion on the floor of the House. As people's representatives of this great country, the public have high expectations and aspirations from us and it is our solemn duty to articulate the same and redress their grievances through effective and optimum use of parliamentary devices and at the same time adhere to standard norms of good behaviour.

Finally, I would like to thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in the completion of the business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips apart from the hon. Members for their cooperation. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

Hon. Members may now stand up as the tunes of *Vande Mataram* would be played.

**17.52 hrs.**

## **NATIONAL SONG**

*The National Song was played.*

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MR. SPEAKER : I adjourn the House sine-die.

**17.54 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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\* â€¦\*This part of the speech was laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT. 4909/2006..

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[r1] followed by O

[R2]Fd. by p1.e

[k3](Fd. by s1)

[p4] cd by w1

[\[krr5\]](#)FId by y1

[\[KMR6\]](#)Cd by c2

[\[s7\]](#)cd by d2

[\[V8\]](#)FId E2

[\[r9\]](#)Cd. By g2

[\[snb10\]](#)FId by h2.e

[\[bru11\]](#)Cd. By j2

[\[r12\]](#)contd. by K2

[\[R13\]](#)cd. by l2.e

[\[R14\]](#)fId by m2

[\[m15\]](#)Ctd. by p2

[\[S16\]](#)Contd by R2

[\[KMR17\]](#)Cd by u2

[\[V18\]](#)Cd X2

[\[R19\]](#)cd. By 'y2'

[\[r20\]](#)cd. By z2

[\[snb21\]](#)Contd. By a3.e

[\[bru22\]](#)Dushyant-cd.

[\[bru23\]](#)Cd. By b3

[\[R24\]](#)Cd. by d3.e

[\[m25\]](#)Ctd. by h3

[\[krr26\]](#)contd by j3

[\[S27\]](#)FId by K3

[\[ak28\]](#)Cd.. by l3