Title: Speaker made valedictory reference on the conclusion of the 10th Session of the 14th Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Tenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 23 February 2007, is coming to an end today.

The first part of this Budget Session commenced with the Address by the hon. President to the Members of both the Houses assembled together in Central Hall and adjourned on 20 March 2007. The second part of the Session commenced on 26 April, 2007.

During the Session, as many as 32 sittings spread over 119 hours were held, of which 17 sittings were held in the first part and 15 sittings in the second part of the Session.

During the Session, the House passed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on 8 March 2007 after a debate lasting for more than 12 hours.

The Budget (Railways) and the Budget (General) for the year 2007-08 were presented on 26.2.2007 and 28.02.2007 respectively.

Discussions on the Budget (Railways) for 2007-08, Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2007-08 and Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2006-07 lasting for 12 hours and 49 minutes were held, before passing the Demands along with the related Appropriation Bills and the Resolution regarding approval of recommendations in Fifth Report of Railway Convention Committee (2004) on 9.3.2007.

The House also had discussions lasting over 17 hours on the Budget (General) for 2007-08, Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2007-08 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2006-07, before passing the said Demands along with the related Appropriation Bills on 14.3.2007.[s42]

During the second part of the session, the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2007-2008 relating to the Ministries of Labour and Employment, Science and Technology and Home Affairs were discussed for 15 hours and 32 minutes before being voted in full. All the outstanding Demands for Grants (General) of the remaining Ministries were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 28th April, 2007 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed. Later, on 3 May, 2007, after discussion lasting over 8 hours and 44 minutes and spread over two days, the House passed the Finance Bill, 2007.

During this Session, the House passed 22 Bills. Some of the important Bills passed were the ones replacing the Ordinances issued earlier, namely, the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Bill, 2007; the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007; the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007; the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007; the National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and the National Rural Employment Guarantee (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2007; the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006; the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2007; the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2006 (Amendment of the Schedule).

The House had fruitful debates lasting over four hours on an important matter of global and topical relevance under Rule 193, namely, on Global Warming. The House also had debates lasting about two hours on the issue of price rise. I am thankful to all the hon. Members for their very effective participation in the discussion on the issue of global warming.

During the current session, three important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made statements. As many as 57 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects.

Coming to the Private Members' Business, 14 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. One Bill, namely, the Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2005 seeking to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith was withdrawn by the leave of the House after a fruitful debate. Another Bill, namely, the promotion of Self-Employment Bill, 2006 seeking to encourage self-employment among educated unemployed youth remained inconclusive.

A Private Members' Resolution urging the Government for formulation and implementation of the comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country remained part discussed.

During this session, 621 starred questions were listed, out of which 75 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 2.34 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to 5,928 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

In this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 67 reports.

About 156 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour, and by sitting late in the night. Hon. Members also raised 324 matters under rule 377.

In this Session, we lost over 73 hours of time due to interruptions, and forced adjournments. The House also sat late for 19 hours and 51 minutes.

I once again take an opportunity to emphasize that for effective functioning of a Parliamentary democracy, active participation of all sections of the House is of prime importance, more so when matters of national and international importance are taken up for discussion. However, in spite of my earnest request, some of the very important legislative and financial business before the House had to be completed without discussion. While conceding a Member's right to ventilate his views on any particular issue, I would like to reiterate that there is no better alternative or substitute other than a structured discussion on the floor of the House within the parameters of the Rules of Procedure.[r43]

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, hon. Leader of the House, hon. Leader of the Opposition, hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, 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 *Vande Mataram* would be played.

16.00 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song was played)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die.

16.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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