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Title: Mr Speaker made valedictory Reference on the conclusion of Thirteenth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Thirteenth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha is coming to close today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (PANSKURA): Sir, we strongly object to this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The first part of this Budget Session commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 with the Address by the hon. President to the Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall. The House adjourned on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 to enable the Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments and submit their Reports thereon. The second part of the Budget Session commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 after the recess.

During the Session, we had 28 sittings spread over 162 hours 09 minutes. Of these, 16 sittings were held in the first part and 12 sittings were held in the second part of the Session.

The House discussed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 for over three days. It was passed on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 after a debate lasting for more than 12 hours and 33 minutes. Before the conclusion of the debate, 51 amendments were moved and negatived.

The Budget (Railways) and Budget (General) for the year 2008-09 were presented on 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 respectively.

The House had a combined discussion *inter alia* on the Budget (Railways) for 2008-09, Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2008-09, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08, and Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2005-06, lasting for 14 hours and 53 minutes, before the demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bills passed. The Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 were discussed in the second half of the Session on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2008. Six cut motions were moved and negatived before the Demands were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also held combined discussion lasting over 16 hours and 24 minutes on the Budget (General) for 2008-09, Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2008-09, and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2007-08, before the said Demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bills were passed.

During the second half of the Session, the Demands for Grants for 2008-09, in respect of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, Rural Development and Information and Broadcasting, were discussed for 24 hours and 25 minutes before being voted in full. [\[MSOffice3\]](#) All the other outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2008-09 of the remaining Ministries were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The Budget in respect of the State of Karnataka for the year 2008-09 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) for the year 2007-08 were presented to Lok Sabha on 10<sup>th</sup> of March, 2008. The General Discussion on Budget in respect of the State of Karnataka for 2008-09, Demands for Grants on Account (Karnataka) for 2008-09 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Karnataka) for 2007-08 was taken up together on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2008. After discussion, the Demands were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also discussed the Finance Bill, 2008 for about 9 hours and 5 minutes before it was passed to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2008-09.

During the Session, 17 Government Bills were introduced and one Bill was withdrawn. In all, the House passed 20 Bills which included five Ordinances replacing Bills. Some of the important Bills passed were the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2008; The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2008; the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2008; the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2008; the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2008; The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008 and the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

The House had a meaningful and structured debate lasting over 6 hours and 52 minutes on a matter of Public Importance under Rule 193 i.e. the situation arising out of continued rise in the prices of essential commodities and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto. The concerned Minister replied to the debate.

During the Session, three important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention in response to which the concerned Ministers made Statements. As many as 51 Statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects.

Coming to the Private Members' Business, 23 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. One Bill, namely, The Electoral Reforms Commission Bill, 2006 seeking to set up an Electoral Reforms Commission with a view to initiate comprehensive reforms in the existing electoral system, moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan remained part discussed.

A Private Members' Resolution regarding Free and Compulsory Education up to the Higher Secondary level moved by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav was further discussed on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 and was negatived. Another Resolution regarding legislation for the overall development of persons belonging to the Denotified Tribes and Nomadic Tribes moved by Shri Haribhau Rathod remained part discussed.

During the Session, 560 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 105 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 3.75 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 5413 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. One subject under Half-an-Hour Discussion was also taken up.

In this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 62 Reports.

About 307 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour and by sitting late in the evening. Hon. Members also raised 298 matters under Rule 377.

In this Session, while we lost over 28 hours and 30 minutes of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments, the House also sat late for 36 hours and 38 minutes to compensate for the lost time.

I once again take this opportunity to emphasize that I have always favoured within the parameters of rules and procedures of business, debates and discussion on the issues affecting the public at large and the common man in particular.

It is this very purpose that our democracy and the parliamentary institutions strive to achieve. However, instances of interruptions, forced adjournments and defying the authority of the Chair do not help our common goal of public welfare and executive accountability. It is through debates and discussions that National Policies and Budget priorities can be influenced which, in turn, would justify our role as Parliamentarians.

Finally, I would like to thank deeply the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips apart from the hon. Members for their cooperation. [R4] 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.

**14.20 hrs.**

## **NATIONAL SONG**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members may now stand up as the tune of Vande Mataram would be played.

*The National Song was played*

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

**14.21 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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