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Title: The speaker made Valedictory Reference on the conclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> session of 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Seventh Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2011 with the Address by the Hon. President to the Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall is coming to a close today.

During the Session, we had 23 sittings spread over approximately 116 hours and 40 minutes.

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 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2011. After a debate lasting for 10 hours and 07 minutes, all the amendments moved were negatived and the Motion of Thanks was passed on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011.

A motion for appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament regarding "allocation and pricing of telecom licences and spectrum", moved by the Leader of the House on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 was adopted after a discussion lasting for 3 hours and 42 minutes.

The Budget (Railways) and Budget (General) for the year 2011-2012, were presented on 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 respectively.

This being the Budget Session, the sittings of the House were originally scheduled to be held in two parts, that is, from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 and again from 5<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2011. But in the wake of Assembly elections in some States and a Union Territory, the sittings of the second part were cancelled and the first phase was extended up to 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2011. To facilitate the passage of Railway Budget and General Budget, without the respective Demands for Grants being examined by the concerned Standing Committees, Rule 331G of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2011-12 and the Demands for Grants (General) for 2011-12 was suspended. A motion was moved in this regard by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs which was adopted by the House.

The House held a combined discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2011-12; Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2010-11; and Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2011-12 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2011, which lasted for 9 hours and 58 minutes. Cut motions moved on Demands for Grants (2011-12) were negatived and the related Appropriation Bills were passed. The Resolution seeking approval of the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Railway Convention Committee (2009), appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertakings to General Revenues etc. was moved and adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.

The House also held a combined discussion on the Budget (General) for 2011-2012 and Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2010-11 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 lasting for 11 hours and 10 minutes. The Supplementary Demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The Demands for Grants for 2011-2012, in respect of the Ministries of Rural Development and External Affairs, were discussed for 10 hours and 18 minutes before being voted in full. The discussion on Demands for Grant for 2011-12 in respect of the Ministry of Mines, which lasted for two hours and 44 minutes could not be concluded. All the other outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2011-2012 of the remaining Ministries, including the Ministry of Mines, were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also discussed the Finance Bill, 2011 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011. The discussion lasted for about 4 hours and 14 minutes before it was passed to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year, 2011-12.

During the current Session, 11 Bills were introduced and 10 Bills were passed. Some of the important Bills passed were the Repatriation of Prisoners (Amendment) Bill, 2011; the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2011; the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2011; the Finance Bill, 2011; the Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2011; and the Coinage Bill, 2009.

The House had discussions lasting over 8 hours 32 minutes under Rule 193. On the discussion regarding the statement made by the Prime Minister on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 regarding the newspaper report on payment of 'cash for votes', the hon. Prime Minister replied to the debate. The discussion, namely, the need to uplift the socio-economic and educational status of minorities in the country has been replied by the Minister of Minority Affairs. The discussion on situation arising out of widespread discontentment among the working class due to faulty Government policies remained part-discussed.

During the session, three important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention, namely, the problems being faced by farmers of Andhra Pradesh; problems being faced by farmers in Chickmagalur District due to damage of Arecanut crop affected by Yellow Leaf Disease; and situation arising out of move of the Government to liberalize the FDI in retail sector. In response to the Calling Attention, the concerned Ministers made a statement and also replied to the clarifications sought by the Members.

As many as 30 Statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects including five Statements by hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on Government Business.

Coming to the Private Members' Business, 43 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. Discussion on three Bills was taken up. Of them, the Child Welfare Bill, 2009 moved by Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and the Illegal Immigrants and Overstaying Foreign National (Identification and Deportation) Bill, 2009 moved by Shri Baijayant Panda were withdrawn. A Bill to provide special grant to the State of Bihar, moved by Prof. Ranjan Prasad Yadav remained part-discussed

During the Session, 300 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 47 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, only about 3.13 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with replies to 3450 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

Two Half-an-Hour discussions were also raised, namely on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Tourism to Starred Question No.61 regarding Tourism Policy by Shri Raju Shetti; and on the points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Finance to Starred Question No.222 regarding Priority Sector Lending to SCs/STs by Smt. Jyoti Dhurve. The Ministers concerned replied to the clarifications sought by Members.

During this Session, the Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 64 reports.

About 371 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour and after completion of formal business of the House by sitting late in the evening. Hon. Members also raised 251 matters under rule 377.

In this Session, while we lost over 25 hours 18 minutes of time due to interruptions followed by forced adjournments, the House sat late for 26 hours and 36 minutes to compensate the time lost.

Considering the unfortunate logjam which the House witnessed during the previous Session, the successful transaction of the business of the House in this Session is a matter of satisfaction. There have, of course, been differences and divergent views, which is quite understandable in a vibrant democracy like ours. What is commendable though is, these differences could, by and large, be sorted out through mature consultations among leaders of all the Parties.

I would like to thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in the smooth conduct of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Prime Minister, the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, Chairperson of UPA, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministers of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders and Chief Whips of various Parties and groups and 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.

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MADAM SPEAKER :Hon. Members may now stand up as *Vande Mataram* would be played.

*(The National Song was played.)*

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

**13.29 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*

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\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

\* \* This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

\* \* This part of the Speech was laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No LT 4510/15/11.

\* Not recorded.

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