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title: Speaker made Valedictory Reference on the conclusion of the Eighth Session of the 16th Lok Sabha.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Eighth Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha which commenced on 25th April, 2016 is coming to a close today. During the Session, we had 13 sittings spread over 93 hours and 43 minutes.

During the Seventh Session, Rail Budget was presented on 26th February 2016 and General Budget on 29th February followed by introduction of Finance Bill.

The Vote on Account (Railways) was approved by Lok Sabha on 9th March, 2016. The Vote on Account in case of General Budget was approved on 14th March, 2016. The subsequent stage of budgetary process was set in motion in the current Session.

During the current Session, the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2016-17 were discussed on 26th April, 2016. The discussion lasted for 4 hours and 44 minutes. Cut motions moved were negatived and the

Demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The Demands for Grants for 2016-2017, in respect of the Ministries of Development of North Eastern Region, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Social Justice and Empowerment, Civil Aviation, Tourism and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, were discussed for 22 hours before being voted in full.

All the other outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2016-2017 of the remaining Ministries were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 3rd May, 2016 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also discussed the Finance Bill, 2016 on 4th and 5th May, 2016. The discussion lasted for 7 hours and 03 minutes before it was passed to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2016-17.

The Budget in respect of the State of Uttarakhand, for the year 2016-17, was presented to Lok Sabha on 9th May, 2016. The Budget was discussed and after Lok Sabha has approved the same, relevant Appropriation Bill was passed to replace the Ordinance.

During the Current Session, four Government Bills were introduced. In all, 10 Bills were passed. Some of the important Bills passed are the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016; the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015; the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, as reported by Joint Committee; and the Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2016.

Motion for reference of one Bill namely, the Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to the Joint Committee of the Houses was adopted.

During the Session, 260 Starred Questions were listed, out of which, 76 Questions were answered orally. Thus, on an average, 5.84 Questions were answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions alongwith 2,990 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

About 347 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 evenings. Hon. Members also raised 236 matters under Rule 377.

During this Session, the Departmentally-related Standing Committees presented 56 reports.

During the Session, one important matter was raised by way of Calling Attention regarding the alleged irregularities in AgustaWestland Helicopter Deal, 2013. In response to the Calling Attention, the concerned Minister made statement and also replied to the clarifications sought by the members.

The House also held one short duration discussion under Rule 193 regarding drought and drinking water crises in many States and need to consider inter-linking of rivers and water resource management. Just now, we have concluded the discussion on this important matter with the replies of the concerned Ministers.

As many as 22 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects including two statements by hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on Government Business.

During the Session, as many as 737 papers were laid on the Table of the House by the Ministers concerned.

As far as Private Members' Business is concerned, as many as 33 Bills on different subjects were introduced during the Session. Motion for consideration of the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014, as passed by Rajya Sabha, was moved by Shri Baijayant Panda on 26th February, 2016. The discussion on the Bill was taken up during Seventh Session and remained part-discussed. The Bill was further discussed on 29th April, 2016 during the Current Session and remained part-discussed.

As regards Private Members' Resolutions, the Resolution regarding steps to ensure welfare of Employees Provident Fund Pensioners, which was moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran during the Sixth Session on 11th December, 2015, was further discussed on 6th May, 2016 and remained part-discussed on that day.

I am happy to inform you that in the recent past this is the first Session in which the House was not adjourned even for a single minute due to interruptions – आज का इसीडेंट छोड़े – and I thank the entire House for cooperation extended to the Chair.

