NATIONAL SOCIAL WATCH

Rajya Sabha
Monsoon Session at a Glance

Parliament Session 226
8th Aug. to 7 Sept. 2012

National Social Watch

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Rajya Sabha in Monsoon Session 226

226th Monsoon Session of Parliament began on 8th August 2012 and ended on 7th September 2012. The session was one of the worst in terms of time lost. While adjourning the House sine die, the Chairperson of Rajya Sabha Hon'ble Shri Hamid Ansari stated "this Session is likely to be remembered for the work that was not done".

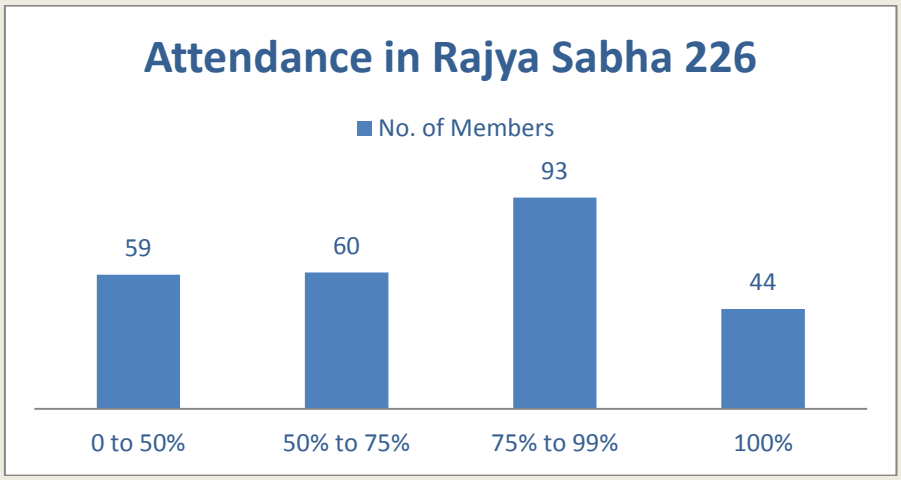
Highlights of Rajya Sabha

Sittings/ Working Hours/ Attendance:

1. The Session was supposed to consist of 20 working days. The fixed sitting of 28th August 2012 was cancelled due to Onam festival.
2. Rajya Sabha worked full time only for 4 days out of a total of 19 days.
3. Out of 90 scheduled hours Rajya Sabha worked for only 28 hours and 62 hours were lost on:
    - Ethnic violence in Assam
    - Attacks on migrants from North-East Region,
    - CAG allocation of coal blocks, augmentation of coal productions,
    - Reservation in promotions for SCs/ STs in Government jobs,
    - Black money and
    - Training of Sri Lanka Army by India.
4. 2 hours were made up by late sittings.

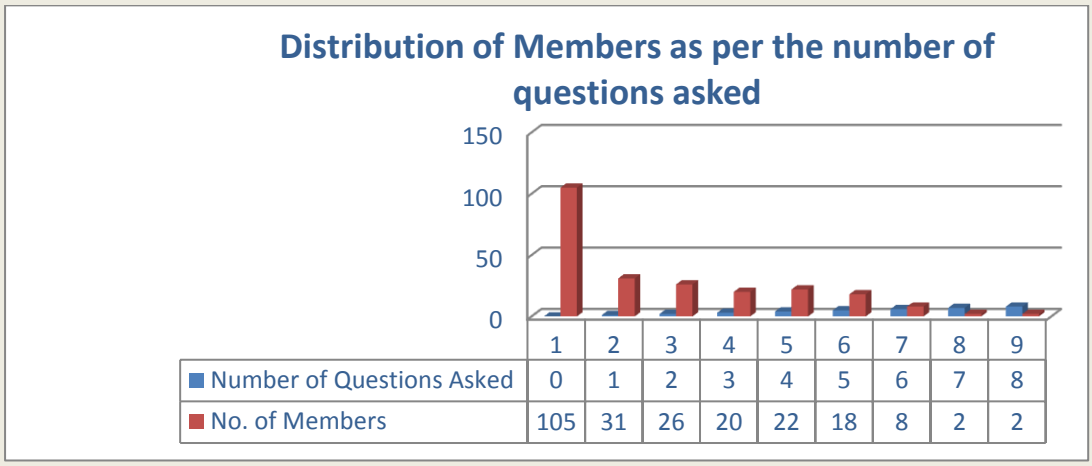
Attendance

5. Out of 226 members who sign in the attendance register, only 44 members had 100% attendance, 59 of members had 50% or less than 50% attendance.



Questions:

1. The Question Hour was conducted for only one day i.e. 14th August, 2012. Other days the Question Hour could not be conducted due to interruptions in the House over the CAG report on allocation of coal blocks and augmentation of coal production and some other issues.
2. Total number of starred questions laid on the table was 399.
3. Only 11 questions were orally answered.
4. 3100 un-starred questions were laid on table.
5. Out of 226 Members, who could have asked questions, as many as 105 Members did not ask a single question.
6. Devender Goud T. and A. Elavarasan from TDP[i] and AIADMK[ii] respectively asked the highest number of questions (i.e. 8 questions each).



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number of Questions Asked	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No. of Members	105	31	26	20	22	18	8	2	2

Bills/ Papers Laid:

1. 981 Papers were laid on the Table.
2. 11 Private Members Bills were introduced within 7 minutes on 9th August 2012. These are:
    - The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Amendment Bill, 2012, asked by Shantaram Naik.
    - The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (Amendment of the Preamble and article 1) asked by Shantaram Naik.
    - The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (Amendment of articles 243G 243W) asked by Shantaram Naik.
    - The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2012 asked by Kanimozhi.
    - The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (Amendment of articles 124 and 217) asked by H.K. Dua.
    - The Armed Forces Covenant Bill, 2012, asked by Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

- The Victims of Naxalite Acts of Violence (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2012, asked by Rajeev Chandrasekhar.
- The Renewable Energy (Promotion and Compulsory Use) Bill, 2012 asked by Rajeev Chandrasekhar.
- The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2012, asked by Rama Chandra Khuntia.
- The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2012, asked by Rama Chandra Khuntia.
- The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2012, asked by Rama Chandra Khuntia.

3. Two Private Members Bills were withdrawn on 9th August 2012 after 2 hours of discussion. They are:
    - The Prohibition and Eradication of Ragging Bill, 2011
    - The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2011

4. Two Government Bills were introduced:
    - The Constitution (One Hundred Seventeenth Amendments) Bill, by Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Ministry
    - The Armed Forces Tribunal (Amendment) Bill 2012 by Ministry of Defense

5. Three Government Bills were passed:
    - The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Bill, 2012 was passed on 9th August 2012, after 33 minutes of discussion which was moved by Ajay Maken. Eight MPs participated in the discussion.
    - The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Banglore Bill, 2010 was passed after 2 hours and 15 minutes of discussion on 13th September 2012 which was moved by Ghulam Nabi Azad and 17 MPs participated in the discussion.
    - The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2012 was passed in 1 minute on 4th September 2012 which was moved by Ghulam Nabi Azad.

***Source**: Rajya Sabha Website (http://rajyasabha.nic.in/)*
Compiled by: Farha Iman, National Social Watch

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[i] Telugu Desam Party
[ii] All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham