

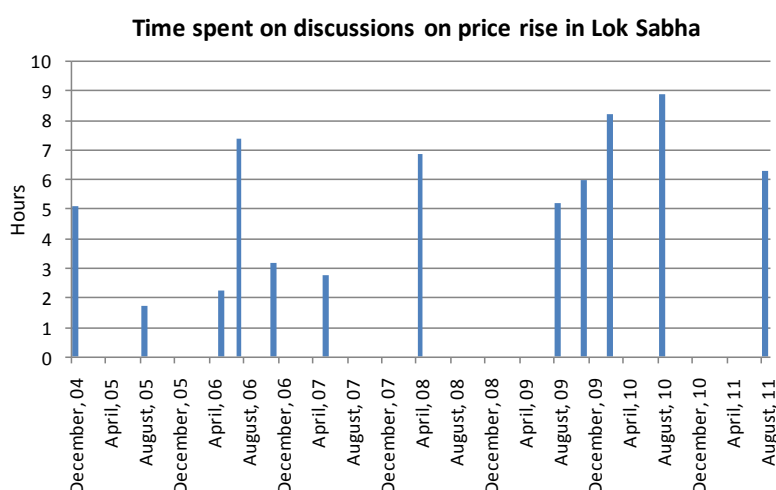
# Vital Stats

## Discussions on price rise in Parliament

The Winter Session began on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. However, both houses of Parliament continue to be stalled over several controversial issues, chief among these being the issue of price rise.

Price rise has been an issue of major debate in almost all sessions of Parliament in the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. With inflation still hovering around 9%, the topic continues to be relevant. We highlight some aspects of these debates below.

**Discussions on price rise have witnessed widespread participation in the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha - 110 MPs from 26 political parties discussed the issue for 35 hours**



- Discussions on price rise featured regularly in debates in both the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. However, the issue has been debated more frequently in the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha due to the persistent nature of the inflation problem.
- Structured discussions on price rise are usually taken up under Rule 193 in Lok Sabha and Rule 176 in Rajya Sabha. Under these rules, a short duration discussion can be initiated on any subject. However, these rules do not provide for any formal voting in the House.
- In some recent sessions, the opposition has demanded an adjournment motion on the issue of price rise. The adjournment motion is a call to set aside the regular business of the House and take up a specific matter for discussion. Such a motion is voted upon, and if passed, is considered as censure against the government.

**Lok Sabha had discussed the issue of price rise for over 6 hours in the Monsoon Session this year and close to 9 hours in the Monsoon Session last year**

**Table: Prominent debates in the Lok Sabha**

Debate title	Date	MPs who spoke
<a href="#">Motion to call upon the govt. to take immediate steps to check inflation</a>	03-Aug-11	37
<a href="#">Inflationary pressure on the economy &amp; its impact on common man</a>	03-Aug-10	58
<a href="#">Price rise</a>	25-Feb-10	35
<a href="#">Rise in prices of essential commodities</a>	26-Nov-09	31
<a href="#">Rise in prices of essential commodities</a>	03-Aug-09	31

To read the debate text, click the corresponding hyperlink  
For web addresses, see notes at the end of the document

- Discussions on price rise were taken up in 5 of the previous 8 sessions of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.
- In two sessions - Budget 2010 and Monsoon 2010 - some MPs submitted notices to hold the discussion as an adjournment motion. In each case, the speaker did not allow the motion.
- 37 MPs had participated in the debate that ‘called upon the government to take immediate steps to check inflation’ in the Monsoon Session of Lok Sabha this year. The debate was initiated by Yashwant Sinha of BJP and saw wide participation from across political parties.
- Most speeches focused on the supply issues (such as crop failure, hoarding, lack of subsidies, problems in PDS etc.). There was less emphasis on demand-led factors.

## Rajya Sabha had last taken up a structured discussion on price rise in 2010

**Table: Prominent debates in the Rajya Sabha**

Debate title	Date	MPs who spoke
<a href="#">Inflationary pressure on the economy &amp; its impact on common man</a>	04-Aug-10	24
<a href="#">Price rise</a>	25-Feb-10	24
<a href="#">Situation arising out of continued rise in prices</a>	08-Dec-09	22
<a href="#">Situation arising out of continued rise in prices</a>	04-Aug-09	25

- On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010, a discussion in Rajya Sabha was initiated by Arun Jaitley, the Leader of Opposition in the House. The discussion spanned 8.5 hours and saw participation from 24 MPs.
- The opposition sought to highlight the inaction of the government and urged it to take appropriate steps to control the increase in prices. The government, on its part, highlighted the measures undertaken by it and the constraints faced in price management.

To read the debate text, click the corresponding hyperlink  
For web addresses, see notes at the end of the document

### Notes:

1. All data has been sourced from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites. Source documents include the 'Resume of Work' and the 'Text of Debates' in the two Houses.
2. Lok Sabha debate text, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011, <http://164.100.47.132/debatetext/15/VIII/0308.pdf>
3. Lok Sabha debate text, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010, <http://164.100.47.132/debatetext/15/V/0308.pdf>
4. Lok Sabha debate text, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010, <http://164.100.47.132/debatetext/15/IV/2502.pdf>
5. Lok Sabha debate text, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009, <http://164.100.47.132/debatetext/15/III/2611.pdf>
6. Lok Sabha debate text, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009, <http://164.100.47.132/debatetext/15/II/0308.pdf>
7. Rajya Sabaha debate text, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010, <http://164.100.47.5/newdebate/220/04082010/Fullday.pdf>
8. Rajya Sabaha debate text, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010, <http://164.100.47.5/newdebate/219/25022010/Fullday.pdf>
9. Rajya Sabaha debate text, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009, <http://164.100.47.5/newdebate/218/08122009/Fullday.pdf>
10. Rajya Sabaha debate text, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2009, <http://164.100.47.5/newdebate/217/04082009/Fullday.pdf>

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