

Vital Stats

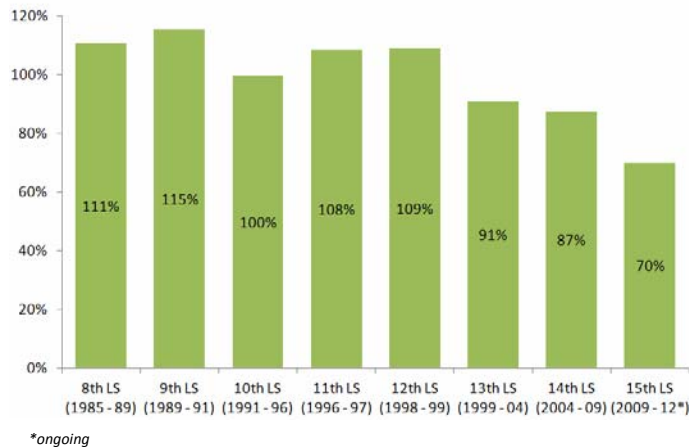
Parliament in 2012

In 2012, Parliament proceedings were marred by disruptions over a wide range of issues, notably the CAG report on coal allocation and FDI in retail. The year also saw some parliamentary tools used for the first time in the 15th Lok Sabha – three statutory motions to amend Rules and Regulations were discussed and a discussion under Rule 184 that entails voting was conducted on the issue of FDI in retail. Finally, 2012 marked the 60th Anniversary of the Indian Parliament; a special sitting was convened during the Budget Session to commemorate the day.

Here, we look at some statistics from the year in Parliament.

36% of allocated time in Parliament was lost to disruption in 2012

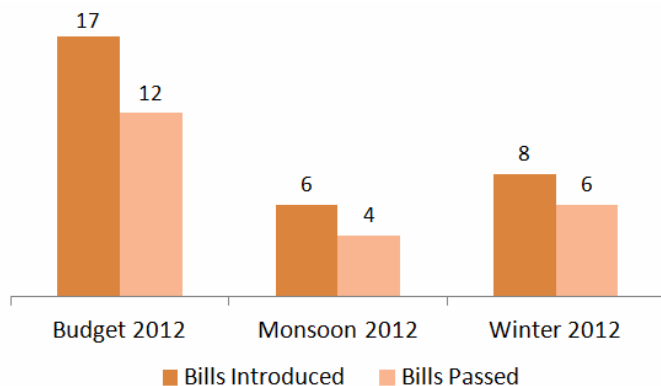
Productive time in Lok Sabha (% of scheduled time)



- In 2012, both Houses were scheduled to meet 74 times with sittings in the Lok Sabha expected to last 6 hours and Rajya Sabha 5 hours. However, only 61% of available time was used for parliamentary work in the Lok Sabha and 66% in the Rajya Sabha.
- The Monsoon Session was disrupted over the alleged irregularities in the allocation of coal blocks. Around 77% of time was disrupted and both Houses only sat for 51 hours (of the allocated 220).
- The recently concluded Winter Session stalled over the government's decision to allow 51% FDI in the retail sector and introduction of quotas for SCs and STs for reservation in promotions.
- More than half-way through the 15th Lok Sabha, productive time is at 70%, significantly lower than previous Lok Sabhas.

In 2012, 22 Bills were passed by both Houses

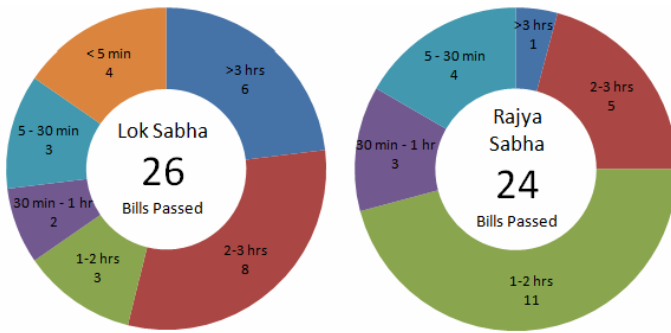
Legislative Performance in 2012



- The government had listed 94 Bills for consideration and passing (some repeatedly) across the three sessions of Parliament. By the end of the Winter Session, only 22 Bills were passed.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill, the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill and the Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill were some of the key legislation passed.
- At the end of the year, 104 Bills remain pending before Parliament. These include the National Food Security Bill, the Land Acquisition Bill and the GST (115th Amendment) Bill.

Eleven bills were passed with less than 30 minutes discussion

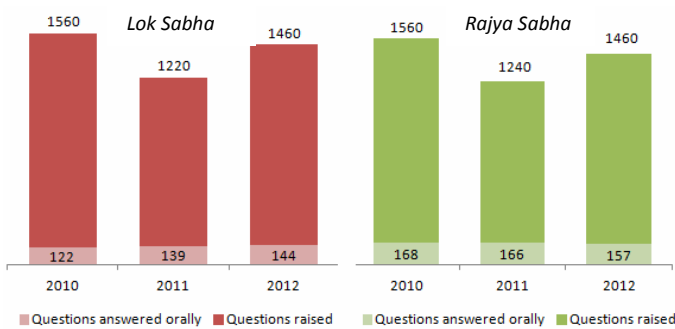
Time taken to pass Bills in Parliament in 2012



- Of the 26 Bills passed by Lok Sabha in 2012, 6 were discussed for over three hours. These include the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Companies Bill and the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill. Seven Bills were passed with less than 30 minutes of discussion.
- In Rajya Sabha, almost half of all Bills were passed after a discussion lasting between one to two hours. The Constitution (117th Amendment) Bill, allowing for reservations in promotion, was discussed for the longest time with MPs spending more than 5 hours on the legislation.

10% of starred questions were answered orally in Parliament

Performance of Question hour (starred questions)



- Over the course of the year, 31,020 questions were posed in both Houses of Parliament (18,245 in Lok Sabha, 12,775 in Rajya Sabha).
- A total of 1,460 starred questions were raised in both Houses. In the Lok Sabha, 10% of starred questions were answered orally while 11% of starred questions were answered in the Rajya Sabha.
- Question Hour was curtailed because of frequent disruptions. In 2012, 146 hours were allocated for Question hour in both Houses but only 57 hours (39%) were used. So far in the 15th Lok Sabha, 43% of the allocated time has been spent on questions.

On average, MPs' Parliament attendance was around 80%

Parliament attendance* of major parties

Lok Sabha		Rajya Sabha	
Party	Attendance	Party	Attendance
INC	80.3%	INC	81.4%
BJP	77.9%	BJP	81.0%
SP	77.8%	SP	90.5%
BSP	88.6%	BSP	81.7%
JDU	90.6%	Independent	62.1%
CPIM	86.5%	CPIM	81.1%
Others	70.8%	Others	75.5%
Overall	78.5%	Overall	78.5%

*data does not include MPs who are Ministers

- In 2012, average attendance in both Houses was 78.5%
- In the Rajya Sabha, amongst parties with more than 10 seats, members from the Samajwadi Party were the most regular attendees of Parliament (average attendance of 91%). While in the Lok Sabha the most regular attendees were MPs from the Bahujan Samaj Party (89%).

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