

Vital Stats

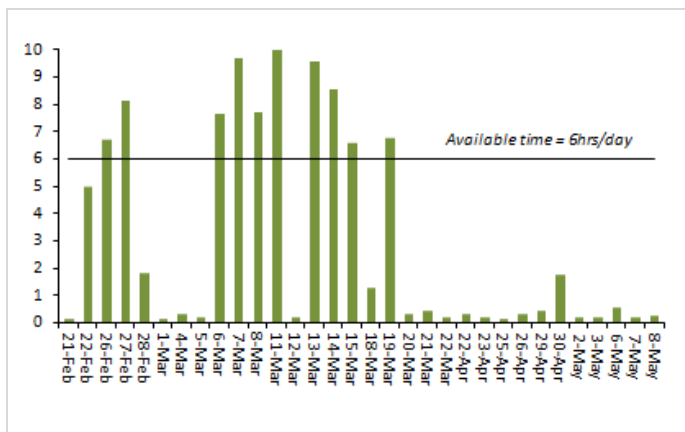
Parliament Budget Session 2013

Parliament convened for the Budget Session 2013 for 32 days between February 21 and May 8. Both Houses were adjourned *sine die* on May 8, two days ahead of the planned schedule. There was a month long recess from March 22 to April 22, while Standing Committees examined demands for grants of various Ministries.

The Budget session saw frequent disruptions over a wide range of issues such as the CBI report on coal block allocations, the Indo-China border dispute, the draft report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 2G and corruption allegations in the Railway Ministry. The Budget session saw the passage of the Union and Railway Budgets as well as two Bills.

51 % of available time was lost in Lok Sabha

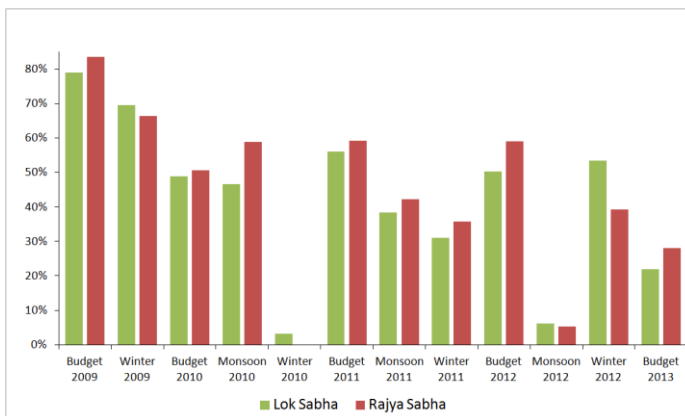
Productive time in Lok Sabha (hrs)



- Total productive time in Lok Sabha was 95 hours, i.e. only 49% of the available time. This was significantly lower than the 2012 Budget session, during which the productive time was 89 %.
- Total productive time in Rajya Sabha was 83 hours, i.e. 52% of the available time. Like Lok Sabha, productive time in Rajya Sabha was much lower than the previous Budget session: in 2012, Rajya Sabha worked for 94 % of available time.
- Of the total productive time in Lok Sabha, 30 % of time available was spent on transacting financial business, 28 % on non-legislative debates, and 12 % on discussing legislation.
- In comparison, Rajya Sabha spent 16 % on budget discussions, 37 % of available time on non-legislative debates, and 12 % on discussing legislation.

Question Hour functioned for only 7 out of 30 hours in Lok Sabha

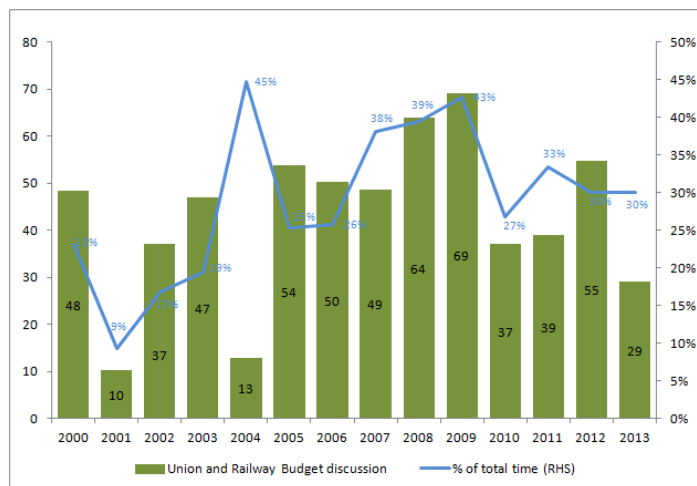
Question hour in the 15th Lok Sabha (% of available time)



- Question Hour, an hour set aside each day for MPs to question the government on its policies and administration, was disrupted frequently in both Houses.
- In Lok Sabha, Question Hour was conducted for only 23 % of the available time. In comparison, Question Hour in Rajya Sabha was conducted for 30 % of the available time.
- No starred questions were answered orally in Rajya Sabha on 16 days out of 32 sitting days. In Lok Sabha no questions were answered on 9 days.
- Of the total 600 starred questions, in Lok Sabha, only 38 were orally answered on the floor of the House. In Rajya Sabha 49 were orally answered.
- As a result of Parliament adjourning two days ahead of schedule, the remaining questions lapsed.

29 hours were spent on budget discussion in Lok Sabha

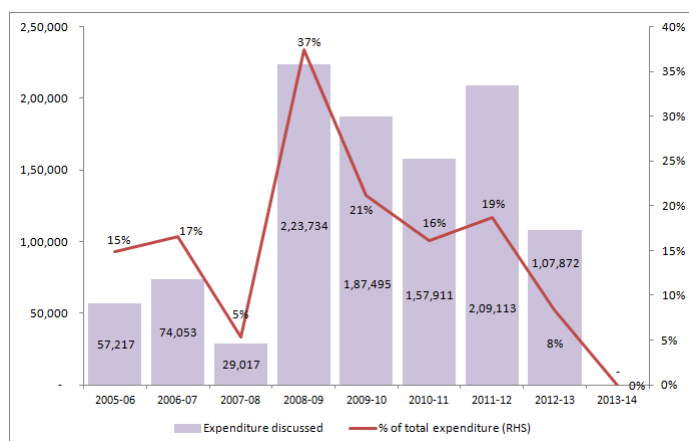
Time spent on Budget in Lok Sabha (hrs)



- The General Budget was presented in Parliament by Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Feb 28, 2013. The Railway Budget was presented by Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal on February 26.
- Lok Sabha spent 29 hours on discussing both the general and railway budgets. The Rajya Sabha spent around 13 hours.
- In comparison, in 2012, Lok Sabha spent 55 hours on discussing general and railway budget.

No demands for grants were discussed in Lok Sabha

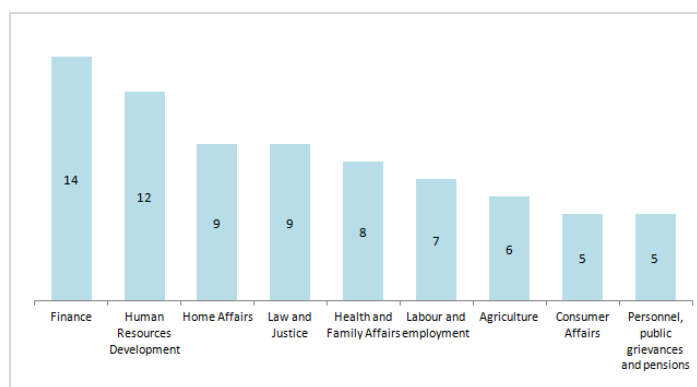
Amount of expenditure (Rs crore) discussed before being voted on



- Parliament does not usually have time to discuss the budgetary proposals of each Ministry (Demands for Grants). Demands of only a few Ministries are discussed at length. The rest are 'guillotined', i.e. put to vote without any discussion.
- This year no demands for grants were discussed before being passed in the Lok Sabha. The total government spending is projected as Rs 16.6 lakh crore.
- In the Budget session 2013, the Financial Bill was passed without discussion and all demands for grants were guillotined. In comparison, in 2012, 92 % of total demands were guillotined while in 2011, 81 % were guillotined.

116 Bills are pending in Parliament

Number of bills pending by Ministry*



*Ministries with at least 5 Bills pending

- For the Budget session, the Government's agenda listed 38 Bills for consideration and passing. The government also introduced 16 new Bills (*in addition to Financial Bills*).
- During the session, only two Bills were passed by Parliament: The Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill and The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill.
- Lok Sabha spent 3 minutes on passing the Sexual Harassment Bill while Rajya Sabha discussed the Bill for almost 3 hours. In comparison, the Criminal Law Bill was discussed for more than 5 hours in the Lok Sabha and around 3 hours in the Rajya Sabha before being passed.
- At the end of this session, 116 Bills are pending in Parliament.

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