

Vital Stats

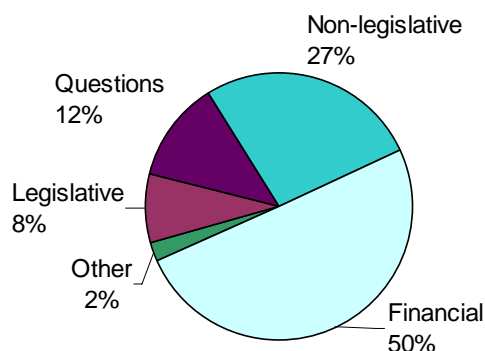
Activity of Parliament: Budget Session 2009

July 02 – August 07: 26 Working Days

How did Parliament perform during this Budget Session? What was the quantum of time spent on debates and legislation? How much time was lost to interruptions? How often did different parties participate? We attempt to answer these questions using data from the recently concluded Budget Session of Parliament.

Lok Sabha spent majority of its time discussing financial issues...

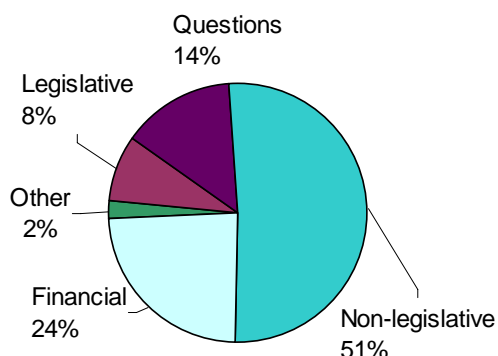
Time spent by Lok Sabha



- Of the cumulative time spent by Lok Sabha, 17 hours were lost to interruptions
- The House, however, more than compensated for this loss by working overtime. In effect, total productive time at 162 hrs was 104% of scheduled time.
- The major focus of this session was on budget and other related items. The House spent 50% of its productive time on these issues.
- Major non-legislative debates included inflation, swine flu, drought situation and PM's international visits.
- Only 8% of productive time was spent on legislation other than Finance and Appropriation Bills. Three bills were passed and 10 new introduced. Bills passed included The Right to Education, The Constitution Amendment Bill to extend reservation for SC/ST in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, and The Metro Railways Bill.

...Rajya Sabha, on the other hand, concentrated more on non-legislative items

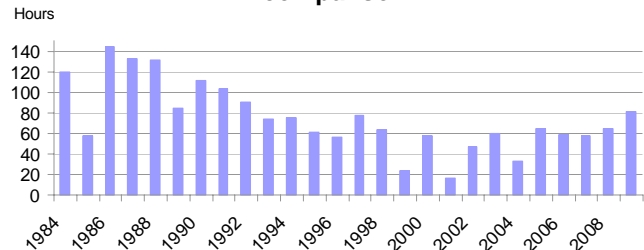
Time spent by Rajya Sabha



- Rajya Sabha lost five hours to interruptions. Including its sittings beyond schedule, the House met for 147 hours (113% of scheduled time).
- The House spent 51% of its productive time on non-legislative debates. A large part of this time was spent discussing the working of various ministries.
- 8% of productive time was spent on legislation other than Finance and Appropriation Bills. Three bills were passed by the House.

Lok Sabha spent more time discussing the budget than in recent past

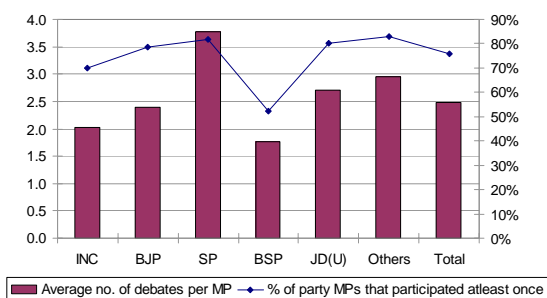
Time spent on Budget discussions in LS - historical comparison



- Standing Committees were instituted in 1993. Ever since then, time spent on budget discussions on the floor of the House has decreased
- However, unlike previous years, this Union Budget was not referred to Standing Committees as these are yet to be formed; budget proposals were directly debated on the floor of the House.
- Lok Sabha spent about 81 hours discussing the budget – 59% greater than the average for last 10 years.
- 23% of time spent on budget discussions was dedicated to Railways; 196 MPs participated in this debate.

Participation in debates in Lok Sabha saw wide variation across parties

Participation of party MPs in debates in Lok Sabha



- On average, an MP participated in 2.5 debates. MPs from SP stood out with each member participating in 3.8 debates. The corresponding figure for Congress was 2.0 and 2.4 for BJP.
- Participation was also most widespread for SP - 82% of its MPs spoke at least once; BJP ranked close at 78% while Congress stood at 70%.

Notes:

1. This analysis is based on detailed data obtained from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites.
2. All debates data was compiled from summaries of daily business of the two Houses as contained in Bulletin I.
3. In our analysis, we did not include proposals and responses by Ministers to various issues.
4. Parties with total strength greater than 20 MPs have been shown in the graph above.
5. Time spent on Budget includes time spent on General Budget, Railways Budget, Finance Bill and Demands for Grants.

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