

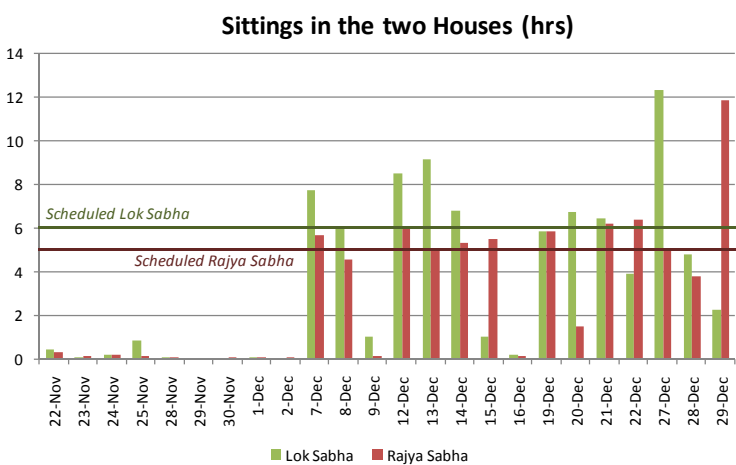
Vital Stats

Parliament in Winter Session 2011

A significant part of the first two weeks of the Winter Session were lost to disruptions on issues such as the adjournment motion on price rise, FDI in retail, Telangana and Mullaperiyar.

The Winter Session was later extended for three days. During the extended part of the session, anti-corruption Bills such as the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, the Constitution (116th Amendment) Bill, the Judicial Accountability Bill and the Whistleblowers Bill were taken up for consideration.

Though the session was extended, Parliament still fell short of its initial targets



- Disruptions in Parliament have been a frequent occurrence in the 15th Lok Sabha. By the end of this Winter Session, the 15th Lok Sabha had utilised only 70% of the available time, the least in the last 25 years.
- Parliament had initially planned to sit for 21 days during this Winter Session. However, the session was later extended by three days. Lok Sabha worked for a cumulative 85 hours (67% of planned time) and Rajya Sabha for 74 hours 24 min (71% of planned time).
- Though the session was extended, Parliament still fell short of its initial targets. Before the beginning of the session, the government had listed 32 Bills for consideration and passing. Of these, only 15 Bills were passed by the two Houses.
- 400 starred questions were tabled in Lok Sabha; only 41 (10%) were orally answered. The situation was similar in Rajya Sabha.

While the 116th Constitution Amendment Bill was defeated in Lok Sabha, the vote on the Lokpal Bill was deferred in Rajya Sabha

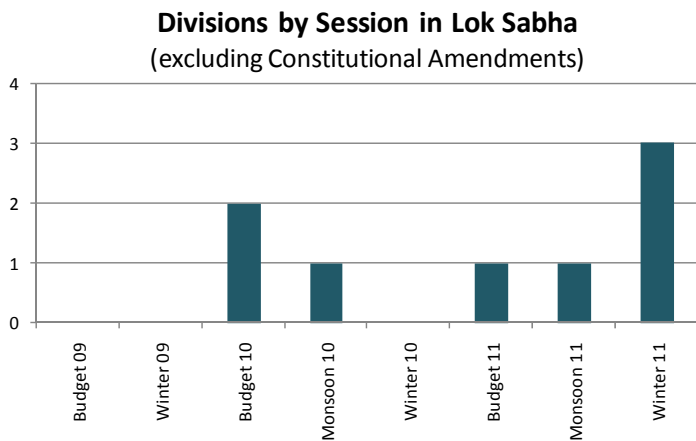
Table: Time spent on Bills passed by the House (H:M)

Bill#	LS	RS
The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill	11:58*	--
The Prasar Bharati Amendment Bill	03:10	03:33
The Constitution (111 th Amendment) Bill	02:44	03:25
The Petroleum & Minerals Pipelines Amendment Bill	02:37	01:49
The Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill	02:36	02:17
The Regulation of Factor Bill	02:10	01:57
The Cable Television Networks Amendment Bill	02:09	01:42
The Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill	01:49	01:16
The Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill	01:36	01:49
The NCT of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Bill	01:13	01:06
The New Delhi Municipal Council (Amendment) Bill	00:40	00:45
The Constitution (ST) Order (Amendment) Bill	00:01	00:59
Three Bills permitting limited liability structures	00:08	01:11
The Railway Property Amendment Bill	--	02:12

#The Bill names used above may not be the exact title; *Discussed along with the Constitution (116th Amendment) Bill and the Whistleblowers Bill in LS;

- More than 39 hours (46% of total sitting) were spent on legislation in Lok Sabha and over 44 hours (59% of total sitting) were spent on legislation in Rajya Sabha.
- Among the anti-corruption Bills, the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill and the Whistleblowers Bill were passed by Lok Sabha. However, the Constitution (116th Amendment) Bill that aimed to accord constitutional status to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas was defeated in the House.
- The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill was moved in Rajya Sabha on the 28th of December. However, despite a 12 hour discussion, the Bill was not put to vote.
- Several MPs have proposed amendments to the Bill. If amended and passed in Rajya Sabha, the Bill will have to be sent back to the Lok Sabha for reconsideration.
- If Lok Sabha disagrees with the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha, the President may call for a Joint Sitting to resolve the deadlock between the two Houses. Till date, there have been only three such sittings.

Many MPs called for divisions while voting on amendments to the Lokpal Bill



- Any motion in the House is decided by means of a question put by the Chair. Those in favour of the motion are invited to say 'Aye' and those against to say 'No'. If the opinion of the Chair is challenged, a Division is called for.
- A division records the vote of each member. In India, recorded voting is mandatory only in the case of Bills amending the Constitution. Divisions are rarely called for in other circumstances.
- In comparison, recorded voting is the norm in the United States House of Representatives¹. The voting record of each member is thus available to the public.

No time was spent on Private Members' Business

Table: Time spent on Private Members' Business (H:M)

Date	Scheduled	LS	RS	Reason
25 th Nov, 11	02:30	0	0	Disruption
2 nd Dec, 11	02:30	0	0	Disruption
9 th Dec, 11	02:30	0	0	Disruption
16 th Dec, 11	02:30	0	0	Disruption

- In both Houses, the last two and a half hours of sitting on every Friday are generally allotted for transaction of Private Members' Business, i.e. Private Members' Bills and Private Members' Resolutions.
- Though Private Members' Business was scheduled for each Friday in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, no business could be conducted due to disruptions in the House.
- Since the beginning of the 15th Lok Sabha, 211 Private Members' Bills have been introduced in the Lok Sabha and 140 in the Rajya Sabha.
- Some Bills were withdrawn in Lok Sabha. Presently, 202 Bills are pending in Lok Sabha and all the introduced 140 Bills are pending in the Rajya Sabha. No Bill has been passed.

Notes:

- United States House of Representatives, http://www.house.gov/content/learn/legislative_process/
- All data has been obtained from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites and/ or the Resume of Work.

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