

Vital Stats

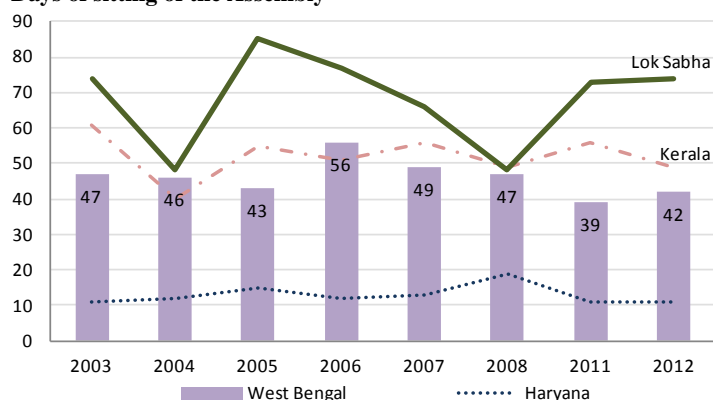
West Bengal Legislative Assembly 2012

The term of the 15th West Bengal Legislative Assembly commenced in May 2011. The Assembly will complete its five year term in 2016. We present some statistics from the work of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 2012.

In 2012, the Assembly sat for four sessions. The Budget session commenced on the 15th of March and after 13 days of sitting ended on the 2nd of April. Cumulatively, in 2012, the Assembly sat for a total of 42 days.

In 2012, the Assembly sat for 42 days

Days of sitting of the Assembly

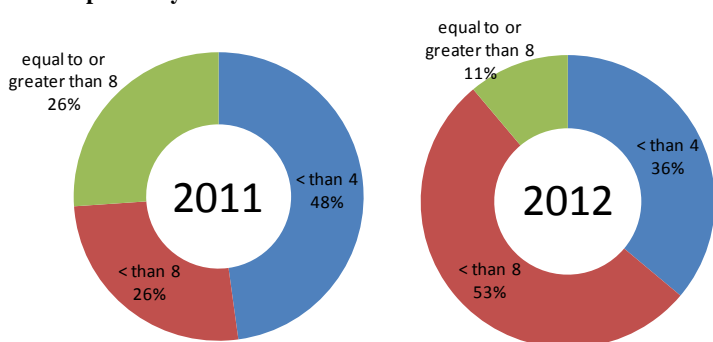


- The Constitution does not mandate a minimum number of days of sitting for the Assembly; it only mandates that a session be held every six months.
- During the period 2003 – 2012, the Assembly sat for an average of 46 days a year, during the same period the Lok Sabha sat for an average of 69 days.
- In comparison, the Kerala Assembly sat for an average of 52 days and the Haryana Assembly sat for 13 days per year.

*Data for 2009 and 2010 not available

On average, five Members participated in the discussion on each Bill

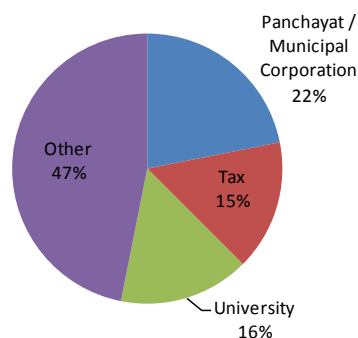
Participation by Members in Discussion on Bills



- In 2012, a total of 39 Bills were passed by the Assembly, including Appropriation Bills.
- On average, five Members participated in the discussion on each Bill.
- Most of the Bills were passed on the day they were introduced in the Assembly.
- Discussion on two Bills - The Diamond Harbour Women's University Bill 2012 and the West Bengal College Service Commission Bill, 2012 – saw participation by 10 members.
- In 2011, a total of 23 Bills were passed. On average, five Members participated in the discussions on each Bill.

22 per cent of Legislation related to Panchayat and Municipal Corporations

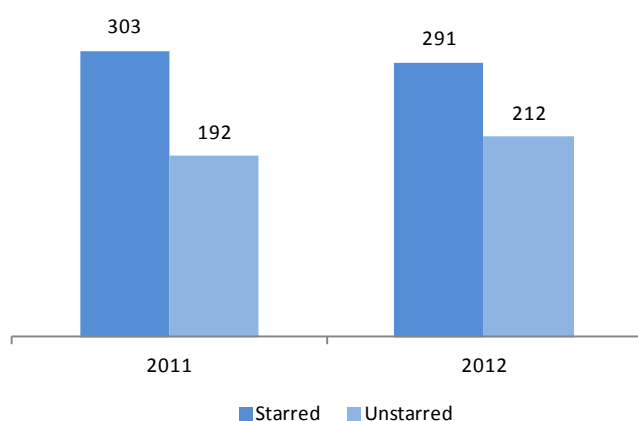
Legislation by subject



- Of the 31 Bills – excluding Appropriation Bills - passed in 2012, five (15 per cent) pertained to taxes, five were regarding setting up of Universities and seven (22 per cent) pertained to Panchayat and Municipal Corporations.
- Almost 47 per cent of the legislation passed covered other subjects such as land reforms, identification of SCs and STs, Minorities Commission, etc.

In 2012, 291 Starred Questions were posed in the Assembly

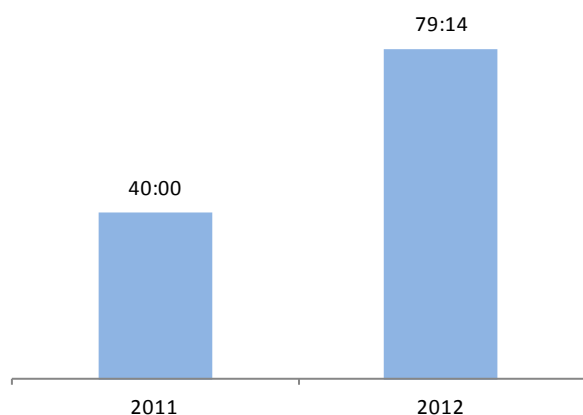
Number of questions asked in the Assembly



- Starred Questions are questions to be answered orally by Ministers during Question Hour. Answers to Unstarred Questions are submitted to the House.
- In 2012, 291 Starred Questions and 212 Unstarred Questions were posed by Members.
- Of which, 127 Questions (47 per cent) were answered orally on the floor of the House.

Time spent on Budget discussion increased by almost 100 per cent as compared to 2011

Time spent on discussing the Budget (HH:MM)



- As in Parliament, the Assembly usually does not 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.
- However, in 2012, the West Bengal legislature spent around 60 hours of discussion on Demands for Grants.
- In 2011, a discussion on the Budget and Demand for Grants took place in the new Assembly constituted in May. A Vote on Account - by which the government obtains the vote of the Assembly for a sum sufficient to incur expenditure on various items for a part of the year - was passed in March 2011.

*2011 includes discussion on Budget tabled in August 2011 only

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