Elections for the 8th Goa Legislative Assembly will be held on February 14, 2022. The 7th Assembly held its sessions between March 2017 and October 2021. This document analyses the working of the 7th Assembly up to October 19, 2021.

The Assembly met for 18 days a year on average

- The Assembly held 16 sessions between March 2017 and October 2021 with 85 sitting days in total. During the tenure of the 7th Assembly, the highest number of sittings in a year was 25 (in 2019).
- Nearly 70% of the Assembly’s sessions were held for less than five days. The lowest number of sitting days in a year was seven days (in 2020). Almost half of the Assembly’s sittings lasted for more than six hours.
- The longest sitting of the Assembly was 15.2 hours on July 29, 2021. The sitting started at 11:30 am and continued till 4:28 am of the following day. During this sitting, the Assembly passed nine bills including the India International University of Legal Education and Research of the Bar Council of India Trust at Goa Bill, 2021 and the Goa Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The House discussed issues related to internet connectivity for online classes during the Calling Attention motion.
- In the Assembly’s overall functioning from 1989 to 2021, the highest number of sitting days in a year was 60 (in 2002) while the lowest was seven days (in 2020).

Note: Data for sittings is available on the Assembly website from 1989.

25% Bills passed on the same day they were introduced, four referred to Select Committees

- Until October 2021, 95 Bills were introduced and 92 were passed (excluding appropriation Bills). Key enactments include the Goa Bhumiputra Adhikarini Act, 2021, the Goa Compensation to the Project Affected Persons And Vesting of Land in the Government Act, 2017, and the Goa Public Gambling (Amendment) Act, 2021.
During the tenure of the 7th Assembly, 2021 was the year in which highest number of Bills were introduced (31) and passed (29). The third session of 2021 had the highest number of Bills being introduced and passed in the same session (20). All Bills, other than four which were referred to Select Committees, were passed in the same session that they were introduced.

The Assembly referred four Bills to Select Committees. These are the Goa Requisition And Acquisition Of Property Bill, 2017, the Goa Essential Services Maintenance (Amendment) Bill, 2020, the Goa Preservation of Trees (Amendment) Bill, 2021, and the Goa (Verification of Tenants) Bill, 2021. Of these, the last three were not passed, and will lapse.

27 Ordinances were promulgated during the term

During the term, 27 Ordinances were promulgated. 14 of these were promulgated in 2020. Key Ordinances include the Goa Regularization of Unauthorized Construction Ordinance, 2018, and the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. There was one instance of an Ordinance (the Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020) being withdrawn by promulgation of another Ordinance (the Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Withdrawal Ordinance, 2021).

Overall, 24 Bills passed replaced one or more Ordinances. There are two Bills that replaced two Ordinances each: (i) The Goa Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020 and (ii) The Goa Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

During five sessions, no questions were taken up

Starred questions refer to questions orally asked and answered on the floor of the Assembly. Starred questions which could not be answered orally, are laid on the table in written form. 812 starred questions were answered during the third session of 2017, which was the highest during the Assembly’s term. In the fourth session of 2019, 100 starred questions were answered orally, the maximum in the term. In the same session, the highest number of unstarred questions were answered (1,725).

Percentage of starred questions answered orally out of the total answered was ten percent or more on only three occasions in the term. On average, answers of only 6% of the answered starred questions were given orally in the term.

No starred or unstarred questions were answered in five sessions of the Assembly. Four of these sessions were a day long, and one was a four-day long session.

Sources: Goa Legislative Assembly website (https://www.goavidhansabha.gov.in/), Goa Assembly Session Brief Reports

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