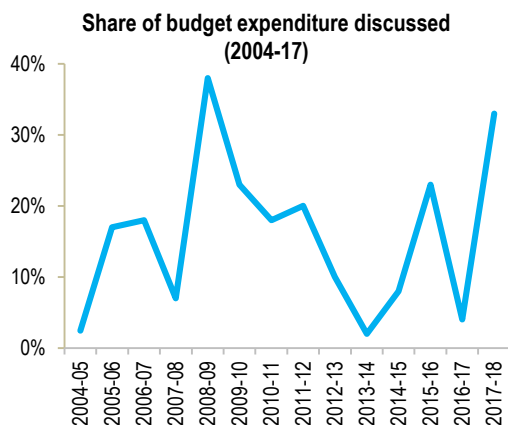


Vital Stats

Parliament functioning in the Budget Session 2017

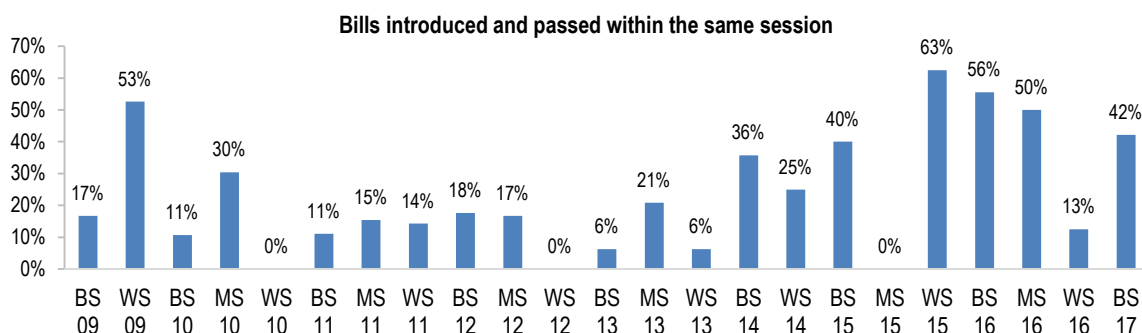
Budget Session 2017 has been one of the more productive sessions for both Houses during the 16th Lok Sabha. In addition to passing the Union Budget, Parliament spent significant time on legislative and other debates.

34% of total expenditure discussed in Lok Sabha; second highest since 2004



- The expenditure of four Ministries: Defence (22%), Home (5%), Agriculture (4%) and Railways (3%), amounting to 34% of government expenditure was discussed. Note that the Union Budget is about Rs 21 lakh crore.
- The remaining 66% of the expenditure was guillotined, i.e. passed without discussion.
- This is the second highest proportion of total expenditure discussed since 2004-05. In 2008-09, 38% of total expenditure was discussed.

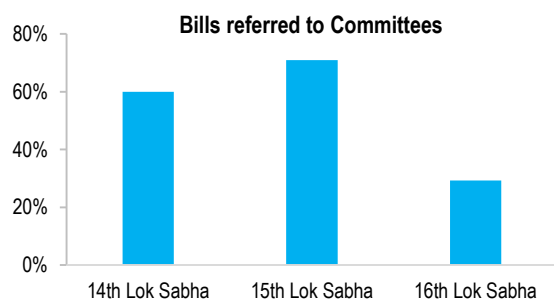
13 Bills passed by Parliament; 8 of them introduced and passed within this session



Note: Does not include Finance Bills and Appropriation Bills.

- Of the eight Bills that were introduced and passed within this session, four Bills were on the levy of GST and one on the exchange of demonetised currency notes. These Bills were passed by Lok Sabha within a few days of being introduced.
- In recent sessions, a higher percentage of Bills are being introduced and passed within the same session. These include Bills related to application of Aadhaar and tax on undeclared foreign income.

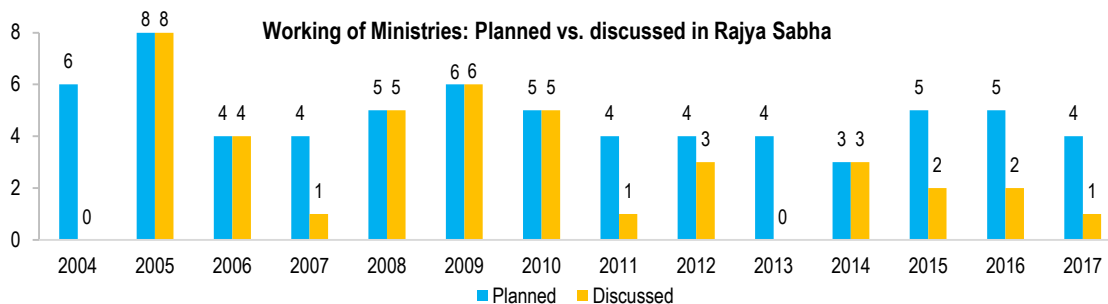
Fewer Bills being scrutinised by Parliamentary Committees in the 16th Lok Sabha



Note: Data for 16th Lok Sabha is for 9 sessions, up to BS 2017.

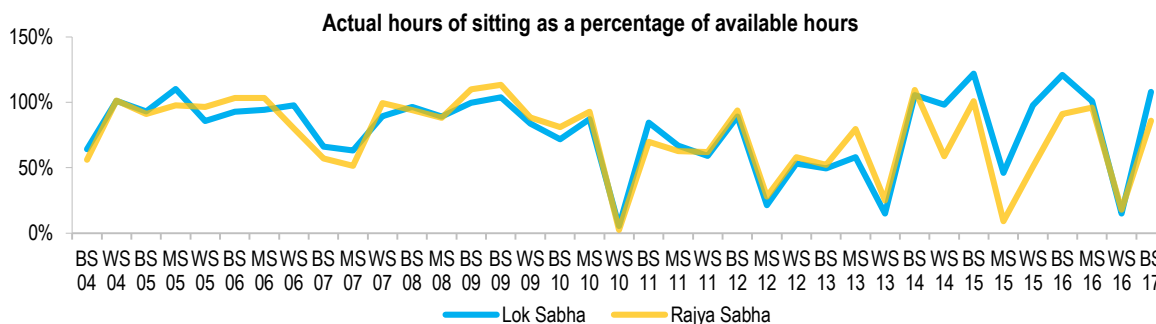
- A lower percentage of Bills have been referred to committees for scrutiny in the current Lok Sabha (29%), as compared to the 15th Lok Sabha (71%) and the 14th Lok Sabha (60%).
- During this session, some Bills, such as those related to the levy of GST and increase of maternity benefits were passed without being examined by Parliamentary Committees.
- This implies that Members of Parliament had limited opportunity to conduct detailed scrutiny and obtain feedback from experts and stakeholders before passing these Bills.

Rajya Sabha examined the functioning of fewer Ministries than planned



- During the budget session, Rajya Sabha examines the functioning of various Ministries. In recent years, fewer Ministries are being discussed by Rajya Sabha in comparison to those scheduled for discussion.
- In this session, out of the four Ministries planned for discussion, only Railways was discussed for a duration of six hours. Note that the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises was scheduled for discussion for three consecutive years (2015, 2016, 2017), but not discussed.

Lok Sabha productivity at 108%; Rajya Sabha productivity at 86%



- Both Houses sat for a larger proportion of their scheduled time during this session than the average for the 16th Lok Sabha. Since 2014, the average productivity of Lok Sabha is 95% and Rajya Sabha is 73%.
- In comparison, during the first three years of the 15th Lok Sabha, the average productivity of Lok Sabha was 74% and Rajya Sabha was 76%.

President’s address, implementation of Aadhaar and electoral reforms discussed

Topic of Debate	House	Time (hh:mm)	MPs
President’s Address	RS	14:45	40
Electoral Reforms	RS	06:35	20
Aadhaar	RS	03:28	14
President’s Address	LS	10:38	101
Benefits to Employees Provident Fund pensioners	LS	04:18	10
Sustainable Development Goals (Health) [Unfinished]	LS	03:46	11

- Rajya Sabha spent a majority of its productive time (41%) on non-legislative business, while Lok Sabha spent 21%.
- Rajya Sabha discussed the President’s address, implementation of Aadhaar and electoral reforms.
- The President’s address was discussed for over 25 hours in both Houses with 141 MPs participating in the discussion.

Other highlights

- The Finance Bill, 2017, which was passed as a Money Bill, contained provisions related to structural changes to existing tribunals. Rajya Sabha returned the Bill with four amendments, which were rejected by Lok Sabha. This is the second time in the 16th Lok Sabha that Rajya Sabha has made recommendations on a Money Bill, the first one being the Aadhaar Bill, 2016.
- A Constitution Amendment Bill to make the National Commission for Backward Classes a constitutional body was introduced and passed in Lok Sabha within four days. The Rajya Sabha referred the Bill to a Select Committee for examination.

Data Sources: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites; Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; PRS.

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