

Vital Stats

Parliament in Monsoon Session 2011

The Monsoon Session of Parliament saw several uncommon events – a gesture by the Lok Sabha to Anna Hazare, a discussion on the issues raised by Anna Hazare on the Lok Pal Bill and the impeachment motion against Justice Soumitra Sen in Rajya Sabha.

However, in performance terms, the house fell significantly short of its initial plan. Proceedings were marred by disruptions – first on the issue of corruption and the detention of Anna Hazare, and later on the appointment of the Gujarat Lokayukta.

123 MPs participated in the Lok Pal discussion in Lok Sabha; 25 MPs in Rajya Sabha

Table: Prominent debates in the Lok Sabha

Title	MPs participated*	Time (hrs)
Lok Pal discussion	123	08:52
Widespread corruption in the country	50	06:10
Inflation	37	06:18
Discussion on PM's statement on Lok Pal and events that took place on 16-Aug-11	29	05:46
Relief & resettlement of Tamils in Sri Lanka	26	03:35
Special status to the State of Bihar	25	02:30

* Excludes Ministers

- Several important issues were taken up for discussion. These included the discussion on Lok Pal, steps to tackle inflation, resettlement of Sri Lankan Tamils, special status to Bihar and the impeachment motion against Justice Soumitra Sen (in Rajya Sabha).
- A detailed discussion on the issues related to Lok Pal was held in both Houses on the 27th of August, a Saturday.
- The Lok Pal discussion spanned approximately nine hours in Lok Sabha and saw participation from 123 MPs across party lines. 22 MPs spoke on the floor of the House; the remaining 101 laid their written speech on the table.
- In Rajya Sabha, the discussion lasted for over seven hours and saw participation from 25 MPs.

Only a few Bills were taken up for discussion; both Houses fell short of targets on legislation

Table: Time spent on Legislation (Hrs:Min)

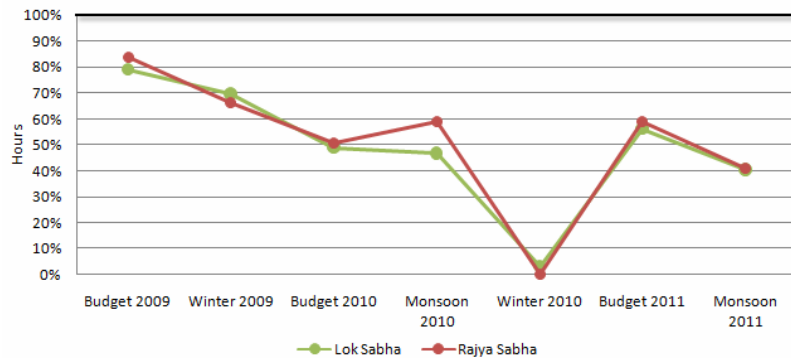
Bill	LS	RS
The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2011	03:37	03:14
The Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill, 2011	03:20	01:06
The SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, 2009	03:17	01:01
The Transplantation of Organs (Amendment) Bill, 2009	03:02	02:55
The NIT (Amendment) Bill, 2010	02:26	--
The Customs (Amendment) Bill, 2011	01:24	00:02
The IIITDM, Kancheepuram Bill, 2011	00:37	--
The Jawaharlal Institute of PGMER, Puducherry (Amendment) Bill, 2010	00:05	01:20
The Coinage Bill, 2011	00:13	02:06
The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2010	01:10	00:57
The Academy of Scientific Research Bill, 2010	01:46	--
The Orissa (Alteration of Name) (Two Bills)	01:18	01:16

Note: To know more about a Bill, click the corresponding hyperlink

- The initial plan had listed 34 Bills for introduction and 37 Bills for consideration and passing. However, only 13 Bills were introduced. Ten Bills were passed by both Houses and will now be sent to the President for her assent.
- The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2011 was the most discussed Bill in both Houses. The Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Bill, 2009 was also discussed at length.
- Standing Committee reports on nine Bills were also tabled this session. Among these was the report on the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010 that sets up a mechanism for handling cases of misbehaviour in the judiciary. However, none of these Bills could be taken up for consideration.

Question Hour was often disrupted; 60% of the scheduled time was lost to disruptions

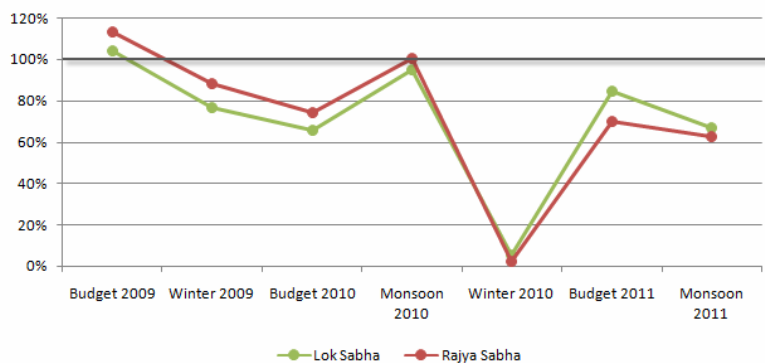
Question Hour - Plan v/s Performance



- The Question Hour had initially been planned for 26 hours in both Houses. However, deliberations were often disrupted, initially due to protests over the issue of corruption and the detention of Anna Hazare, and later on the appointment of the Gujarat Lokayukta.
- Of the 520 Starred Questions planned in Lok Sabha, only 51 could be answered orally. A similar pattern was seen in Rajya Sabha. Of the 520 planned questions, only 65 were given oral replies.
- During the previous session, Rajya Sabha had shifted the Question Hour to 2 pm in the afternoon. This was done to give members an opportunity to raise matters of urgent importance. Despite the change, Question Hour continued to be disrupted and Rajya Sabha decided to revert back to 11:00 am this session.^{1,2}

Overall, the Lok Sabha worked for 67% of the scheduled time and Rajya Sabha for 62%

Productive hours as a percentage of total scheduled hours



- The adjoining graph shows the working of Parliament since the beginning of the 15th Lok Sabha. Except the Budget Session of 2009, Parliament has functioned less than 100% of the scheduled time in each session.
- This session, Lok Sabha had been scheduled to work for 156 hours and Rajya Sabha for 130 hours. However, the actual productive time was 104 hours in Lok Sabha and 81 hours in Rajya Sabha.
- The worst performance was recorded in the Winter Session of 2010, when both Houses were frequently disrupted over the demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe into the 2G scam.

Notes:

1. 'Question Hour shifted to 2pm in Rajya Sabha', 04 March 2011, Indian Express
2. 'Question-hour back to 11 am in Rajya Sabha', 16 July 2011, Hindustan Times
3. All data has been obtained from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites and/ or the Resume of Work.

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