



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

# Rajya Sabha and its Secretariat: A Performance Profile – 2018



RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI  
2019

© 2019 Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Rajya Sabha Website:

<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>

<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>

E-mail : [rsrlib@sansad.nic.in](mailto:rsrlib@sansad.nic.in)

## **PREFACE**

This publication seeks to present in a nutshell information about the work transacted by the Rajya Sabha, its Committees and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2018. It is meant to familiarise the stakeholders with different aspects of the functioning of the Rajya Sabha.

I hope Members of Parliament and those interested in the working of Parliament will find this publication informative and useful.

New Delhi;  
December 2019

**DESH DEEPAK VERMA**  
*Secretary-General,  
Rajya Sabha.*



# C O N T E N T S

	PAGES
1. House at Work	
(i) Question Hour.....	9
(ii) Legislative Business.....	9
(iii) Discussion on the working of the Ministries.....	9-10
(iv) Discussion on matters of urgent public importance.....	10
(v) Private Members' Resolutions.....	10-11
(vi) Statutory Resolutions.....	11
(vii) Government Resolutions.....	11
(viii) Motions under Rule 168 (No-Day-Yet-Named Motions).....	11
(ix) Privilege Cases.....	11
(x) Felicitations to the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha.....	11-12
(xi) Rules Review Committee .....	12
(xii) Motion regarding removal of Chief Justice of India under Article 124(4) of the Constitution .....	13
(xiii) Time taken by the Rajya Sabha on various items during the 245 <sup>th</sup> , 246 <sup>th</sup> and 247 <sup>th</sup> Sessions.....	13-15
2. Committees .....	16-17
3. New Initiatives	
(i) Computerisation and e-governance initiatives.....	18-19
(ii) Personnel Section .....	19-20
(iii) Training Cell .....	20
(iv) M.A. Section .....	20-21
(v) MS&A Section.....	21-22
(vi) Recruitment Cell .....	22
(vii) Notice Office .....	22
(viii) Estt.(A/Cs) & Budget Section .....	22
(ix) Finance Cell .....	23
(x) Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV) .....	23-24
(xi) Sales and Archives Section .....	24
(xii) Parliament Security Service .....	24
(xiii) Printing Section - I.....	24
(xiv) Simultaneous Interpretation Service .....	24
(xv) Rajbhasha Prabhag .....	24
(xvi) Translation (Committee – I) Section .....	25
(xvii) Committee Section (MPLADS) .....	25
4. Parliament and the People	
(i) Parliament Security Service.....	26
(ii) RTI Cell .....	26

5.	International Cooperation and Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue	
(i)	Visits of Indian Parliamentary Delegations Abroad.....	27-28
(ii)	Visits of Foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India.....	28-29
6.	Secretariat.....	30

*Annexures*

I.	Bills passed/returned by the Rajya Sabha during 2018.....	31-33
----	---	-------

## **OFFICERS OF RAJYA SABHA**

**Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu**  
Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha

**Shri Harivansh**  
Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

**Shri Desh Deepak Verma**  
Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha



## House at Work

In 2018, the Rajya Sabha had 65 sittings during the three sessions - 30 during the 245<sup>th</sup> Session, 17 during the 246<sup>th</sup> Session and 18 during the 247<sup>th</sup> Session. However, the 247<sup>th</sup> Session continued till 9 January, 2019. Hence, 65 sittings include 6 days of 247<sup>th</sup> Session\* which spilled over to the year 2019. Accordingly, during the three Sessions, the House sat for 139 hours and 26 minutes. Further, 227 hours and 44 minutes of the House were lost due to disruptions. The House, however, made up 18 hours and 56 minutes of this loss by sitting late or by skipping lunch/recess.

Summons for the 245<sup>th</sup> Session (Budget Session) of the Rajya Sabha was issued on 12 January, 2018. The Session was held in two parts, i.e. from 29 January, 2018 to 9 February, 2018 and from 5 March, 2018 to 6 April, 2018. The first part of the Session, which commenced on 29 January, 2018 was adjourned on 9 February, 2018. The House re-

Sessions 2018	Date of Summons/reconvening	Date of Commencement	Number of Sittings	Date of Termination (Adjournment <i>sine die</i> )	Date of Prorogation	Actual Hours of Sittings Hrs-Mts.
245 <sup>th</sup>	12 Jan., 2018	29 Jan., 2018	30	6 Apr., 2018	6 Apr., 2018	45-17
246 <sup>th</sup>	29 June, 2018	18 July, 2018	17	10 Aug., 2018	13 Aug., 2018	66-55
247 <sup>th</sup>	17 Nov., 2018	11 Dec., 2018	18	9 Jan., 2019	10 Jan., 2019	27-14

assembled on 5 March, 2018 for the second part of the Session and adjourned *sine die* on 6 April, 2018. The House was prorogued by the President on the same day. This being the first Session of the year 2018, the President addressed Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled in the Central Hall on 29 January, 2018. Summons for the 246<sup>th</sup> Session of the Rajya Sabha was issued on 29 June, 2018. The 246<sup>th</sup> Session commenced on 18 July, 2018 and adjourned *sine die* on 10 August, 2018. The House was prorogued by the President on 13 August, 2018. Summons for the 247<sup>th</sup> Session of the Rajya Sabha was issued on 17 November, 2018. The 247<sup>th</sup> Session commenced on 11 December, 2018 and adjourned *sine die* on 9 January, 2019. The House was prorogued by the President on 10 January, 2019.

During the year 2018, 5078 papers and 348 Reports and Statements of various committees, including Department- related Parliamentary Standing Committees, were laid on the Table of the House.

The average attendance of Members per day during the 245<sup>th</sup>, 246<sup>th</sup> and 247<sup>th</sup> Sessions was 159, 192 and 169 respectively. The highest attendance on a day during these Sessions was 186, 213 and 192 respectively.

Simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings of the House and its Committees is done from Hindi to English and *vice versa*. Arrangements also exist for simultaneous interpretation of speeches made in Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Maithili, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Santhali and Sindhi into English/Hindi. The facility of simultaneous interpretation is also provided on request for conferences and meetings of Consultative Committees of different Ministries.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Rwanda

On 18 July, 2018, Hon'ble Chairman made an announcement in the House regarding the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Rwanda for promoting cooperation during the visit of a high level delegation from the Senate of Rwanda from 8 to 13 July, 2018. The MoU was signed by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Mr. Bernard Makuza, President of the Senate of Rwanda. Highlighting its significance, the Chairman said that for the first time in 66 years of its existence, Rajya Sabha entered into a MoU with the Upper House of another country's Parliament to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue, organization of conferences and seminars, workshops and exchanges, capacity building of parliamentary staff, furtherance of bilateral relations and friendship between the two countries, etc. So far the practice had been that the Lok Sabha took the initiative in such matters.

\* As 247<sup>th</sup> Session concluded on 9 January, 2019, Sessions related data in the publication incorporates information till this date.



## Question Hour

The second hour of every sitting is devoted to the asking and answering of questions. During this Hour, Members exercise their right to seek information on various issues from the Government on the floor of the House. Questions, in fact, are used by Members as a device to review critically Government's performance in various fields, to assess the impact of the Government programmes and policies as well as to ventilate public grievances on various matters. During the three sessions of 2018, a total of 26,853 notices of questions, both Starred and Unstarred, were received, of which 11,540 were admitted and 1582 notices were admitted by clubbing therewith. Out of these, 989 questions were listed as Starred questions and of these, 127 questions, constituting nearly 13% were actually taken up for oral answer in the House. Besides, 4 statements were made or laid by the Ministers correcting replies to questions given in the Rajya Sabha. In regard to Short Notice Questions (SNQ), 9 notices were received but none was admitted. During 245<sup>th</sup> session, no notice of SNQ was received. During 246<sup>th</sup> Session, 6 notices of SNQ were received and all of them were disallowed. During the 247<sup>th</sup> session, 3 notices of SNQ were received, out of which 2 were disallowed and 1 was lapsed. Hence, out of total 9 notices of SNQ received during the year, 8 were disallowed and 1 lapsed. Besides, 8 notices for Half-an-Hour Discussion (HAD), arising out of the answers given to starred/unstarred questions, were received but none was admitted. During 245<sup>th</sup> session, no notice of HAD was received. During 246<sup>th</sup> session, 6 notices of HAD were received and all of them were disallowed. During the 247<sup>th</sup> session, 2 notice of HAD were received and both the notices were lapsed. Hence, out of total 8 notices of HAD received during the year, 6 were disallowed and 2 lapsed.

## Legislative Business

Out of total sixty-five (65) sittings held during the three Sessions of the year 2018, the House transacted Government Legislative Business and Private Members' Legislative Business in twenty-nine (29) and three (3) sittings respectively. Six (6) Government Bills were introduced during the year, while five (5) Bills which were introduced prior to the year 2018 and had been pending in the Rajya Sabha, were withdrawn during the year. Twenty-one (21) Private Members' Bills were introduced in the Rajya Sabha of which two (2) Bills were withdrawn. In total, twenty-nine (29) Bills (*See Annexure*) were passed/returned/deemed to be passed by the Rajya Sabha during the year.

The following are some of the statistics relating to Bills which came up before Rajya Sabha during the year 2018:

• Out of total 65 sittings held during three sessions of 2018, number of sittings during which the Government Bills were introduced, considered or laid/reported as passed by the Lok Sabha	29
• Number of sittings during which the Private Members' Bills were introduced or considered	03
• Number of Government Bills introduced	06
• Number of Private Members' Bills introduced	21
• Number of Government Bills withdrawn/fallen through during the year	05
• Number of Government Bills negatived	00
• Number of Private Members' Bills passed	00
• Number of Private Members' Bills withdrawn	02
• Number of Private Members' Bills negatived	00
• Number of Private Members' Bills on which debate adjourned/terminated	00
• Number of Government Bills transmitted by Lok Sabha	38
• Number of Government Bills transmitted by Lok Sabha with amendments	01
• Number of Government Bills originated in and transmitted by Rajya Sabha	01
• Number of Government Bills transmitted by Rajya Sabha with amendments	05
• Number of Government Bills introduced in the Rajya Sabha and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	03
• Number of Bills referred to the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha	01
• Number of Bills reported by the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha	00
• Number of Bills referred to the Joint Committees of the Houses of Parliament	00
• Number of Bills reported by the Joint Committees of the Houses of Parliament	01
• Number of Government Bills considered	19
• Number of Government Bills passed/returned/deemed passed	29*
• Number of Government Bills pending at the commencement of the year	40
• Number of Government Bills pending at the end of the year	49
• Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the commencement of the year	115
• Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the end of the year	130
• Number of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President	29
• Number of Bills on which assent of the President was obtained by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat	12

\* Out of 29 Bills, 10 Bills were deemed to have been passed by both Houses of Parliament under Article 109(5) of the Constitution.

### *Discussion on the working of the Ministries*

During the year 2018, four (4) Ministries were identified in the Business Advisory Committee for having discussion on the working of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, and Ministry of Home Affairs. However, discussion could not be held on any of these Ministries as the House witnessed continuous disruptions during the second part of the 245<sup>th</sup> session. Moreover, the listing of the Ministry for discussion is recommended by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

### *Discussion on matters of urgent public importance*

Procedural devices like 'Calling Attention' and 'Short Duration Discussion' were utilised by Members to raise Matters of Urgent Public Importance on the floor of the House. Besides, Members raised Matters of Public Importance through 'Special Mention' and 'Private Members' Resolutions'. Issues of Urgent Public Importance were also raised by Members as 'Matters raised with permission of the Chairman' (Zero Hour Submissions). Out of 1254 notices given by Members for 'Matters raised with permission of the Chairman', 174 matters were allowed to be raised. During the year, in all 95 Matters of Public Importance were mentioned in the House through Special Mention.

Sixty-nine (69) Calling Attention notices on the matters of urgent public importance were received of which 4 were admitted. However, only one (1) Calling Attention notice could be taken up for discussion, i.e. 'Misuse of social media platforms to spread rumours and fake news leading to rising incidents of violence and lynching in the country', by Shri V. Muraleedharan, M.P. on 26 July, 2018.

#### **Hon'ble Chairman's observation regarding the format of letter addressed to the Chairman and the use of the 'Hon'ble' while addressing the Vice-President/Chairman**

On 6 February, 2018 during the course of laying of the Papers on the Table of the House, the Chairman made observation to change the format of the letters addressed to the Chairman. He said, "I want to tell the Hon'ble Members that it has been decided that the format of the letter to be addressed to the Chairman will be changed and hereafter, it will not be written 'yours faithfully', it will be written as 'yours sincerely' or in any other respectable manner." He further observed, "...the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is holding dual responsibility of Chairman, Rajya Sabha and also the Vice-President of India, I often find an embarrassing situation where the Members and also others call the Vice-President as 'Your Excellency'. I would request and suggest the Hon'ble Members and also the general public that they should address the Chairman or even the Vice-President of India as the Hon'ble Vice-President. There is no need to use the words 'His Excellency' or 'Her Excellency'. There is no need to use such phrases in future".

Further, fifty-eight (58) notices of Short Duration Discussion were received, out of which six (6) were admitted. However, discussion could be taken up on only one (1) matter i.e. 'Non-implementation of the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2014', raised by Shri Y.S. Chowdary, M.P. on 24.07.2018. Discussion on 'Recent increase in the Minimum Support Prices for Kharif crops and challenges in agricultural sector by Shri Amit Anil Chandra Shah, M.P. was also taken up on 7 August, 2018, but it could not be concluded.

### *Private Members' Resolutions*

During the 245<sup>th</sup> Session none of the listed Private Members' Resolutions could be taken up and, hence, all of them lapsed with the prorogation of the Session.

During 246<sup>th</sup> Session, eight (8) Private Members' Resolutions were admitted and two (2) were taken up for discussion. The resolution moved by Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, M.P. regarding lack of uniform reservation system in the country was discussed and negatived by division in the House. Shri Tiruchi Siva, M.P. moved the resolution regarding need to bring suitable legislation for widow welfare in the country. Discussion on the resolution could not be concluded on that day and the Chair, after taking sense of the House, decided to carry it forward to the next Session.

During 247<sup>th</sup> Session, eleven (11) Private Members' Resolutions were admitted including resumption of discussion on the need to bring suitable legislation for widow welfare in the country moved by Shri Tiruchi Siva, M.P. in the earlier session. The resolution moved by Shri Tiruchi Siva was however, negated by division in the House. The resolution moved by Dr Vikas Mahatme, M.P. was discussed and withdrawn by leave of the House.

### *Statutory Resolutions*

During the three sessions of 2018, ten (10) notices of Statutory Resolutions were received. Of these seven (7) notices were moved by the Ministers and were adopted. Three (3) notices admitted on behalf of the opposition Member, Shri T. Subbarami Reddy (INC) were not moved.

### *Government Resolutions*

Six (6) notices of Government Resolutions were received and processed during the year. Two notices, in this regard, were admitted in the 245<sup>th</sup> Session; however, they could not be moved in the House. In 246<sup>th</sup> and 247<sup>th</sup> Sessions, same two notices were admitted again. But they could not be moved in these Sessions also.

### *Motions under Rule 168 (No Day-Yet-Named Motions)*

During the year 2018, a total number of 15 notices were received out of which 3 were admitted. However, none of the admitted Motions was taken up for discussion in the House.

### *Privilege Cases*

During the year 2018, sixteen (16) notices of breach of privilege and other related matters were received, processed and examined. However, no meeting of the Committee of Privileges could be held during the year to consider the notices. The Committee of Privileges considers those cases which are referred to it by the House or by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha. Only one case was referred to the Committee in 2018. Moreover, it is the prerogative of the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman and the Chairman, Committee of Privileges to convene the meeting. One meeting was called in September, 2018 but there was no quorum in that meeting.

### *Felicitations to the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha*

The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha is an important parliamentary functionary who is elected by the Rajya Sabha from amongst its Members. Prof. P.J. Kurien was the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha from 21 August, 2012 to 1 July, 2018. Shri Harivansh was elected to the Rajya Sabha in April 2014. He was elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha on 9 August, 2018. He had distinguished himself as a journalist and was Sub-

#### **Hon'ble Chairman invited First-time Rajya Sabha Member Smt. Kahkashan Perween to preside over Question Hour**

On 2 August, 2018 a record of sorts was created in the Rajya Sabha when a first-term woman Member, Smt. Kahkashan Perween presided over the Question Hour for the first time. Soon after the Zero Hour was over, Hon'ble Chairman Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu invited Smt. Perween, a Janata Dal (United) MP from Bihar to preside over the Question Hour. Shri Naidu later complimented her for doing the job with confidence.

It may be mentioned that in deference to the wishes of Members expressed on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March, 2018 to nominate a woman Member to the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, the Chairman nominated Smt. Kahkashan Perween to the Panel of Vice-Chairmen with effect from 3 April, 2018. Smt. Kahkashan Perween is the only woman Member on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen at present.

#### **Chairman congratulated Members for being conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award**

On 2 August, 2018, the Hon'ble Chairman, on behalf of the whole House and on his own behalf, congratulated Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Member and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Dr. Najma A. Heptulla, former Member and Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, along with Shri Hukmdev Narayan Yadav, Shri Dinesh Trivedi and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Members of the Lok Sabha, who were conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, at a function organized by Lok Sabha Secretariat in the Central Hall, Parliament House on 1 August, 2018.

editor, *Dharmayug*, Times of India Group, Mumbai, 1977-81; Assistant Editor, *Ravivar*, Hindi weekly, ABP Group, Kolkata, 1985-89; Chief Editor, *Prabhat Khabar*, Hindi Daily, Ranchi, 1989 - June 1990 and June 1991 - 30 June, 2016; and Consultant Editor, *Vidura* (Hindi), a prestigious magazine of Press Institute of India; was Additional Information Advisor (in the rank of Joint Secretary, Government of India) to the Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar ji, 1990-91; served on several Boards, Commissions and Committees of the Government of India; has written/edited several books and contributed regularly on socio-economic and other issues of public importance in newspapers.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Leader of the House, Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and leaders of various parties

felicitated Shri Harivansh on his election as Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha. Associating himself with the felicitations offered to Shri Harivansh, Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, said that he strongly believed that Shri Harivansh would live up to the expectations of the House. He pointed out that in the meetings of the Business Advisory Committee and in other daily meetings with leaders of various parties, Shri Harivansh made constructive suggestions and interventions which were driven by his commitment to enable smooth functioning of the House. He felt that the calm, cool and smiling disposition of Shri Harivansh would help him in discharging his new role as a Deputy Chairman of the august House effectively. The Chairman also complimented him for holding this honored position as a first-time Member of the Rajya Sabha. Responding to the felicitations offered to him, Shri Harivansh expressed his gratitude to all for entrusting him with responsibility of the august House. He assured Members that he would fulfill this responsibility as per the rules and conventions of the House. He quoted Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Shri N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar to highlight the importance of

Rajya Sabha as Second Chamber and the dignified debates and discussions.

#### **Bill to enhance productivity of Parliament**

On 3 August, 2018, in a significant move under the Private Members' Legislative Business, Shri Naresh Gujral moved the motion for consideration of *The Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill, 2017*. The Bill sought to provide for the establishment of an effective system to prevent and address the decline in productivity of Parliament due to disruptions of sittings, by means of an appropriate legal framework to fix the minimum number of days in a year for which Parliament shall be in Sessions, introduction of special Session in addition to the existing three Sessions, and compensation for the hours unutilized due to disruptions, among others. Seventeen Members took part in the discussion. However, the discussion on the Bill remained inconclusive.

#### **Significant facts about working of the House**

On 24 July, 2018 the Chairman set a record of sorts by presiding over the House for the entire day. Also, during the Zero Hour, as many as 24 Zero Hour Submissions were taken up as 'Matters raised with permission of the Chair' which is the highest in the history of Rajya Sabha. Though again, on 6 August, 2018, similar number of Zero Hour Submissions were made.

He said that we could lead the country to greatness if we pay our attention to the rules and procedures framed by our Constitution makers. Shri Harivansh said that there may be differences in debates and opinions, but we should strive together to find a way out to run the House in a dignified manner and effectively. He said that he would welcome suggestions and co-operation of all the Members to help him run the House in a better way.

#### ***Rules Review Committee***

On 17 May, 2018 Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha had constituted a Rules Review Committee (RRC) to recommend amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) with Dr. V.K. Agnihotri, former Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha as its

Chairman and Shri Dinesh Bhardwaj, former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, as its Member. RRC presented an interim report and four draft final reports. Pursuant to this, feedbacks/comments were obtained from various Sections of the Secretariat on the suggestions/recommendations made by the RRC. Meetings were also convened to discuss the suggestions/ recommendations given by the RRC and the feedback provided by concerned Sections. The RRC submitted its final report to Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 28 December, 2018. The Report has been forwarded to the General Purposes Committee for its consideration.



*Motion regarding removal of Chief Justice of India under Article 124 (4) of the Constitution*

A Motion was submitted on 20 April, 2018 by 64 Members of Rajya Sabha under Section 3(1) of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 read with Article 124 (4) of the Constitution to the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, praying for removal of Mr. Justice Dipak Misra, the then Chief Justice of India (CJI). Since in the instant case, the notice of motion was against the Chief Justice of India, the Hon'ble Chairman after due examination and consultations with legal luminaries, constitutional experts, former Secretaries-General of both the Houses, former law officers, Law Commission members and eminent jurists came to the conclusion that allegations levelled against the CJI were neither tenable nor admissible. Therefore, the Hon'ble Chairman did not admit the motion *vide* his order dated 23 April, 2018.

**TABLE**  
**Time taken by Rajya Sabha on various items of business during  
the 245<sup>th</sup>, 246<sup>th</sup> and 247<sup>th</sup> Sessions**

Subject	Time Taken		
	245 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.	246 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.	247 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.
National Anthem/ Song	0-02	0-03	0-02
President's Address to both Houses of Parliament laid on the Table	0-01	-	-
President's Message	0-01	-	-
Announcement regarding the Leader of the House	0-02	-	-
Motion of Thanks on the President's Address	14-23	-	-
Oath or Affirmation	0-51	0-06	-
Obituary References	0-21	0-35	0-44
Good wishes to the Deputy Chairman	0-02	-	-
Election of Deputy Chairman	-	0-21	-
Felicitations to the Deputy Chairman	-	1-16	-
Felicitations by the Chair	0-10	0-08	0-04
Ruling/ Reference/ Observation/ Announcement by the Chair	1-24	0-24	0-32
Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution	-	-	0-01
Tributes to Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdev	0-02	-	-
Homage to the sons of Guru Gobind Singhji	-	-	0-02
Welcome to new Members	0-01	-	-
Withdrawal of Members	0-04	-	0-01
Personal Explanation	0-13	-	-

Subject	Time Taken		
	245 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.	246 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.	247 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.
Farewell to Retiring Members	3-37	-	-
Resignation by Members	0-02	-	-
Dispensing with Questions Hour	0-03	0-03	-
Questions	0-51	11-31	2-07
Statements by Ministers Correcting Answers to Questions	-	0-02	0-01
Matters raised with permission (Zero hour Submissions)	0-48	5-12	1-50
Special Mentions	0-21	1-16	0-12
Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance	-	1-24	0-01
Statements by Ministers	0-18	0-22	0-34
Short Duration Discussions (Discussion Under Rule 176)	-	3-46	-
Discussion on the Final Draft of National Register of Citizens in Assam	-	1-33	-
Supplementary Demands for Grants - Laid on the Table	0-01	0-01	0-02
Budgets - Laid on the Table	0-01	-	-
Budgets - General Discussion	10-40	-	-
Statutory Resolution	0-05	0-02	2-39
Government Legislative Business	0-05	26-49	11-18
Private Members' Business			
- Private Members' Resolutions	0-02	2-27	2-55
- Private Members' Bills	2-15	3-43	-
Panel of Vice-Chairmen	0-01	-	-
Papers Laid on the Table	0-43	0-29	0-31
Statements regarding Ordinance	-	-	0-01
Reports/ Statements of the Committees Presented/Laid on the Table	0-28	0-28	0-31
Report of the Joint Committee on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016	-	-	0-01
Information to the House	0-15	-	-
Cancellation of Sitzings of Rajya Sabha	-	0-01	0-02
Leave of Absence	0-05	0-02	0-04
Motions for Election/ Appointment of Members to various Committees/ Bodies	0-10	0-02	0-04

Subject	Time Taken		
	245 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.	246 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.	247 <sup>th</sup> Hrs./Mts.
Motion for Extension of Time for Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill 2018	-	0-01	0-01
Motion for Extending the tenure of the Committee on Welfare of OBCs	-	-	0-02
Messages from the Lok Sabha-Reported/ Government Bills Laid on the Table	0-06	0-17	0-11
Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee	0-03	0-04	0-03
Statements regarding Government Business	0-06	0-08	0-04
Valedictory Remarks	0-15	0-14	0-04
Points raised	6-19	4-05	2-30
<b>Total</b>	<b>45-17</b>	<b>66-55</b>	<b>27-14</b>



## Committees

Parliamentary work is transacted not only in the House but also in the Committees, which, in fact, are called mini legislatures. There are at present 12 Standing Committees of the House, to which Members are nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. With a view to streamline the committee system and making the parliamentary scrutiny of the executive wider and effective, the total number of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees was increased from 17 to 24 in July 2004, out of which, eight (8) function under the control and direction of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and sixteen (16) function under the direction and control of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The membership of these Committees was also reduced from 45 to 31, out of which 10 members are from the Rajya Sabha and 21 are from the Lok Sabha.

During the year 2018, out of a total of 95 reports presented by the Committees of Rajya Sabha, 87 reports were presented by the eight Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees which are serviced by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The information relating to number of reports presented by the Committees is given in the Table below:

**TABLE**  
**Number of reports presented by the Committees of the Rajya Sabha during the year 2018**

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	No of Reports †
1.	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2
2.	Committee on Petitions	1
3.	Committee on Government Assurances	1
4.	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3
5.	Committee on Rules	-
6.	Committee of Privileges	1
7.	House Committee	-
8.	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	-
9.	Committee on Ethics	-
10.	Business Advisory Committee‡	-
11.	Committee on Provision of Computers for Members of Rajya Sabha§	-
12.	General Purposes Committees§	-
13.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce	7

† The Reports are available online at the Rajya Sabha Website *i.e. rajyasabha.nic.in* under the links Committees→Standing Committees and Committees→Department Related (RS).

‡ The Committee does not bring out the Report. Its recommendations are reported to the House by the Chair in the form of an announcement.

§ These Committees do not bring out the Reports. The decisions of the Committees are incorporated in the minutes of the Committee meetings.



<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>No of Reports<sup>†</sup></b>
14.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs	11
15.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare	9
16.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development	15
17.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry	9
18.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	5
19.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	15
20.	Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture	16

---

<sup>†</sup>The Reports are available online at the Rajya Sabha Website *i.e.* [rajyasabha.nic.in](http://rajyasabha.nic.in) under the links Committees→Standing Committees and Committees→Department Related (RS).



## New Initiatives

### *Computerisation and e-governance initiatives*

During the year 2018, after successfully completing numerous activities/initiatives outlined in the IT Plan for the period 2016 -18 in coordination with NIC and the User Sections of the Secretariat, IT Section (Hardware & Software) has initiated action on formulation of the new IT Plan for the period from 2019-2021 which includes work relating to development of new software applications as per requirements projected by various Sections/Branches of the Secretariat and modifications to the already running applications. The primary IT activities/initiatives undertaken by the Section are as follows:

- (i) The Chamber of the Rajya Sabha was made Wi-fi enabled and this facility was launched for the Members on 18 July, 2018.
- (ii) The Project of redesigning the Rajya Sabha Website (in English and Hindi) according to the latest technology and to incorporate new features as required was initiated during this year. Accordingly, the Committee of Officers of Rajya Sabha Secretariat and NIC set up for Redesigning the Rajya Sabha Websites is working towards completion of the work through a NICS I empanelled professional agency, as per the Requirement Specifications Proposal prepared for the purpose and the Standard Operating Procedure of NICS I.
- (iii) The implementation/roll out of the eOffice Product Suite for electronic movement of files, leave applications, online filling of APARs, etc. was started in 2018. Necessary modalities are being worked out as per requirements laid down by the eOffice Project Division, NIC.
- (iv) Store Inventory Management Information System (MIS) was implemented for the benefit of officers/sections of the Secretariat to make online requests for allocation of requisite stationery items.
- (v) The guidelines regarding purchase of Note Book/Laptop etc. by an officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary/equivalent and above were considered by the Secretariat and it was decided that a Laptop including standard software, not exceeding the maximum amount of Rs. 80,000/- would be issued to each eligible officers in phased manner.
- (vi) Facilitation Centre for Aadhaar Registration, Digital Locker System with e-sign Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) for Members of Rajya Sabha was organised during the period from 7 to 17 August, 2018.

#### **Introduction of 'e-Notices Portal'**

As a part of e-Governance initiative taken for the benefit of the Members of Rajya Sabha, on 23 July, 2018, Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha made an announcement in the House regarding introduction of 'e-Notices Portal', a secure, web-based facility to allow Members to submit their Notices online on various parliamentary devices, in addition to the existing system of submitting Notices in hard copies. Members can use the Portal for online submission of Notices for all kind of parliamentary devices for raising issues under the rules such as Questions, Resolutions, Bills, Special Mentions, Short Duration Discussions, Calling Attention, Zero Hour etc. easily from any location. The Portal was launched in the Secretariat with effect from 24 July, 2018 and received an overwhelming response from Members. During 246<sup>th</sup> and 247<sup>th</sup> Sessions, as many as 102 and 2690 e-Notices respectively were received online on various Parliamentary devices from Members of Rajya Sabha.

Arrangements were also made for training of the Members for using this facility from 24 July to 10 August, 2018.

(vii) The Section had initiated provision of e-Governance training and exposure to the Members of Rajya Sabha and Officials of the Secretariat through National eGovernance Division (NeGD), MeitY in the year 2016. It was carried forward in 2018 and 08 officers benefitted through various programmes of NeGD during the year.

(viii) The year 2018 also saw the Secretariat taking major strides in placing relevant data on the Open Data Portal of Government of India under the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), and a total of 2610 datasets have been uploaded on the Portal in the year 2018.

Apart from the above mentioned activities/initiatives undertaken during the year 2018, the Section also issued Purchase Orders for the procurement of 67 Desktop Computers, 74 Laptops, 62 Laser Jet Printers, 6 Apple iPads, 9 Handheld Computers, and 20 Pen Drives for use in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

### Personnel Section

Following two new Sections were created in the Secretariat:

(i) Welfare Section: The Welfare Section was carved out of the existing General Administration Section with effect from 6 June, 2018. The functions of the Welfare Unit, *inter alia*, include rendering necessary assistance to the employees of the Secretariat during emergent circumstances, viz. emergency medical treatment, forwarding the complaints of the employees to the Government agencies, local bodies and Police authorities for speedy redressal of their grievances, etc.

(ii) Reservation Cell: The Reservation Cell was created in the Secretariat with effect from 18 June, 2018. The Cell was created *inter alia* (a) to scrutinize the promotion proposals including the reservation rosters which are sent to the Cell by the Personnel Section prior to placing before the DPC; and (b) to deal with the representations received from reserved category employees on all service matters.

Apart from the above, following amendments in Recruitment and Conditions of Service (R&CS) took place during the year:

(i) R&CS Order No. (1/2018) dated 21 March, 2018 was issued regarding methods of recruitment and eligibility conditions for appointment to the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

(ii) R&CS Order No. (2/2018) dated 28 July, 2018 was issued regarding:

(a) changes in methods of recruitment and eligibility conditions for upgradation to the post of Senior Secretariat Assistant (Selection Grade) in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat;

(b) changes in eligibility conditions for promotion to the post of Assistant Legislative/Committee/ Protocol/Executive Officer in the LAFEA Service of the Secretariat;

(c) changes in methods of recruitment and eligibility conditions for promotion to the post of Senior Secretariat Assistant in the Secretariat by introducing a competitive departmental examination from the grade of Secretariat Assistant with a minimum of three years service

### Introduction of Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System (AeBAS)

The Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System (AeBAS) was launched in the Secretariat on 1 August, 2018 for online marking of attendance by the employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and Office of Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha. For the purpose, AeBAS machines have been installed at different locations in the Secretariat with the help of IT Section and NIC. All the staff and officers of the Secretariat mark their attendance on them twice a day, once in the morning as 'IN' time and in the evening as 'OUT' time for the day. AeBAS Portal is also available on Rajya Sabha Intranet site, i.e. [rsintranet.nic.in](http://rsintranet.nic.in) under the link 'Aadhaar Based Attendance Portal'. The link is also available directly under the URL – [rss.attendance.gov.in](http://rss.attendance.gov.in).

A Camp for updation of Aadhaar Biometric details of the staff of the Secretariat for enabling smooth marking of attendance on AeBAS was organized from 22-31 October 2018.

in that grade;

- (d) changes in the upper age limit in case of Direct Recruitment in various services of the Secretariat; and
- (e) change in designation from “Assistant Director” to “Deputy Director”, wherever existing, for all posts in the Secretariat.

### *Training Cell*

Apart from the regular trainings being held, the following new initiatives were undertaken in the year 2018 by the Section:

- (i) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been constituted by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha to identify the training needs of the Secretariat.
- (ii) A delegation of six officers from Cambodia visited the Secretariat as per the MoU signed between the two Parliaments.
- (iii) A training programme on Employee Information System (EIS) and Public Financial Management System (PFMS) modules, which were rolled out in the Secretariat, was organized in collaboration with Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance, for the officials of Accounts/ Budget and other Sections.
- (iv) Officers from the Editorial and Translation (E&T) Service and Verbatim Reporting Service attended the 11<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference held in Mauritius.
- (v) An in-house training programme in Hindi (Prabodh Gahan) was conducted for officials of the Secretariat from non-Hindi speaking States who don't have any working knowledge of Hindi by inviting a faculty from Raj Bhasha Vibhag, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi (Central Hindi Teaching Scheme). Sixteen (16) officials attended the programme.
- (vi) Rajya Sabha Secretariat participated for the first time in the Seminar conducted in the National Assembly Research Service (NARS), National Assembly, South Korea, held in November 2018. Additional Secretary (L) was nominated to attend the Seminar.
- (vii) An officer of the Secretariat participated in the Study Programme in Upper Chamber of the German Parliament *i.e.* Bundestag for the first time.

### *M.A. Section*

As regards Members' Amenities, the following new initiatives/precedents were undertaken by the Section during the year 2018:

- (i) Re-development of North Avenue: House Committees, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha had decided to re-develop the existing old flats at North Avenue by demolishing the same in phases and constructing the new duplex type flats with basement and state of the art facilities. Accordingly, in its first phase, the CPWD demolished flat nos. 1-64, North Avenue and started constructing 36 new duplex type flats, out of which 4 flats will be handed over to the Rajya Sabha Pool as per 2:1 ratio. The sample flat is ready and construction of the remaining flats is expected to be completed by March, 2019.
- (ii) Setting up of a separate Transport Desk exclusively for the Members of Rajya Sabha: House Committee had decided to establish a separate Transport Desk to exclusively cater to the Members of Rajya Sabha. The Desk started functioning from 5 November, 2018.
- (iii) Revision of rates of licence fee of Western Court Hostel Suites: House Committee, Rajya Sabha had agreed to revise the rates of licence fee of suites at Western Court Hostel in

accordance with the rates of suites in Lok Sabha Pool in order to streamline the large number of requests received from the M.Ps. for their guests.

Also, consequent upon the amendment in the Rules made under the “Housing and Telephone Facilities (Members of Parliament) Rules, 1956,” the following changes came into force: -

- (i) Enhancement of monetary ceiling limit for provision of rent free furniture: The monetary ceiling limit for provision of rent free furniture at the residences of M.Ps has been enhanced from Rs. 75,000/- (Rupees seventy five thousand only) to Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only) per term of the M.P., *w.e.f.* 1 April, 2018 [Rs. 80,000/- in respect of durable furniture and Rs. 20,000/- for non-durable furniture].
- (ii) Provision of broadband internet facility: Members can avail additional broadband internet facility with option either to have a maximum of hundred gigabyte (100 GB) data download at the rate of 512 kilobytes per second (kbps) speed against ten thousand surrendered call units per annum with Rs. 0.50 paise per megabyte (MB) on every additional megabyte (MB) consumed or unlimited data download at the rate of 256 kilobytes per second (kbps) speed against ten thousand surrendered call units per annum.
- (iii) Provision of high speed broadband on Fibre to the Home (FTTH) alongwith wi-fi services: Members can avail high speed broadband on Fibre to the Home (FTTH) with wi-fi services at their residences in Delhi from MTNL. Members shall not make payment upto a maximum of Rs. 2,200/- (Rupees two thousand two hundred only) per month, which shall be paid directly to the MTNL towards charges for this facility.

#### *MS&A Section*

Following new changes/revisions came into effect during the year 2018 regarding Members' Salaries and Allowances:

- (1) As per the Gazette of India Notification dated 29 March, 2018 of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the ‘Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954’ has been amended *vide* the Finance Act, 2018 (13 of 2018). The following changes/revisions have come into force with effect from 1 April, 2018:
  - (i) Salary - Salary has been enhanced from Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) per month to Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one lakh only) per month.  
The salary and daily allowances of members shall be increased after every five years commencing from 1 April, 2023 on the basis of Cost Inflation Index provided under clause (v) of Explanation to section 48 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.
  - (ii) Air Travel Allowance - Provision for additional one-fourth fare of the actual air-fare available on official air journeys has been abolished.
  - (iii) Rail Travel Allowance - Provision for an amount equal to one First Class fare and one Second Class fare available on official rail journeys has also been abolished.
  - (iv) Pension - A former Member of Parliament shall be entitled to a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) and an additional pension of Rs. 2,000/- per month for every year if he/she has served as Member of Parliament for a period exceeding five years.  
The pension and additional pension shall be increased after every five years commencing from 1 April, 2023 on the basis of Cost Inflation Index provided under clause (v) of Explanation to section 48 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

- (iv) Family Pension - The family pensioner is entitled to a pension equivalent to 50% of the Pension otherwise admissible to such deceased Member/Ex-Member. Accordingly, subsequent to revision in pension of former Members as above, family pension is also enhanced accordingly with a minimum amount of Rs. 12,500/- (Rupees twelve thousand five hundred only) per month
  - (v) Constituency Allowance has been enhanced from Rs. 45,000/- (Rupees forty-five thousand only) per month to Rs. 70,000/- (Rupees seventy thousand only) per month;
  - (vi) Office Expense Allowance has been enhanced from Rs. 45,000/- (Rupees forty five thousand only) per month to Rs. 60,000/- (Rupees sixty thousand only) per month out of which Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand only) shall be for meeting expenses on stationery items and postage, and Rs. 40,000/- (Rupees forty thousand only) to be payable to the person(s) engaged by a Member for obtaining secretarial assistance and one such person shall be computer literate.
- (2) Payment of allowances to persons engaged by Members under the Members of Parliament (Office Expense Allowance) Rules 1988: As per the Members of Parliament (Office Expense Allowance) Amendment Rules, 2018, the Office Expense Allowance to the person(s) as engaged by Members for obtaining secretarial assistance has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000/- (Rupees forty thousand only) per month *w.e.f.* 1 April, 2018 to be drawn by a single person or on shared basis.

### *Recruitment Cell*

Initiatives undertaken by the Recruitment Cell during the year 2018 are as follows:

- (i) Examination at centres across the country: Computer based (Online) Preliminary Examinations in respect of 113 vacancies concerning 8 posts in the Secretariat were conducted successfully at 150 centres in 37 cities across the country.
- (ii) Review of Scheme of Examination: Provision regarding conducting interview was removed from the Scheme of Examination for direct recruitment to Group B&C posts in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
- (iii) Empanelment of Consultant Interpreters in Regional Languages: Recruitment Cell provided assistance to the Simultaneous Interpretation Service to empanel Consultant Interpreters for regional languages, namely Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Kannada, Marathi, Sindhi and Santhali.

### *Notice Office*

Secretary-General approved the proposal for issue of Bar-Coded Entry Pass to PA/PS of Members of Rajya Sabha in place of the existing provision of issuing handwritten Photo Identity Card. Accordingly, with effect from May 2018, Bar-Coded entry passes are being issued to PA/PS of Members.

### *Estt.(A/Cs) & Budget Section*

The 'Employees Information System (EIS)' is an online package for salary payments which has enhanced the digitization of receipts and payments, thereby benefiting the Government employees. Earlier, the salary related bills were processed in the 'Comp DDO' module till the financial year 2017-18. However, as per the directions of the Ministry of Finance, 'EIS' was rolled out from the current financial year 2018-19 and accordingly *w.e.f.* 1 April, 2018 all bills on salary and allowances including honorarium, medical and children educational allowance claims of the employees are being processed through this new software. Further, the contingent bills are now being processed through the PFMS module.

## Finance Cell

Finance Cell issued a circular dated 29 November, 2018 for streamlining of tender process in the Secretariat requesting all the Sections/Branches dealing with the procurement of goods/services and disposal of goods, to adhere the following points:

- (i) The entire tendering process should begin at least three to four months before the expiry of the existing contract.
- (ii) The minimum time to be allowed for submission of bids should be three weeks from the date of publication of tender.
- (iii) The tender should be published on the Rajya Sabha Website, on Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) and on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) etc.

## Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV)

During the year 2018, RSTV has taken major programme initiatives to launch new formats for Parliament related programmes like 'Question Hour'/'*Prashan Kaal*', new segments were added to News Bulletins viz. 'Parliament Update/*Sansad Parisar Se*' and 'Parliament This Week/*Sansad Is Hafte*'. Some other genres of programmes launched are 'Ground Report', '*Ayushman Bhav*', '*Arthniti*', 'Cultural Calender', etc. besides many other big ticket programme series or special programmes. RSTV aims at establishing itself as a credible, objective and knowledge based 24x7 news and current affairs channel with its primary focus on the live telecast of the proceedings of Rajya Sabha during Parliament sessions. During the year 2018, following achievements/initiatives were made/taken by the RSTV:

- (i) Social Media Presence: Social Media Platforms have a significant place in every media house and play a crucial role in increasing the channel's reach to a wider base of audience. RSTV's YouTube channel saw phenomenal growth in 2018. As on 31 December, 2018, the channel had over 18.7 lakh subscribers and over 27 crore views. In 2018, the channel gained over 11.9 lakh subscribers and close to 16.2 crore views. RSTV received a 'YouTube Gold Award' as a token and an acknowledgement from YouTube after RSTV crossed a million subscribers on 12 June, 2018. RSTV's YouTube channel had gained nearly 1 lakh new organic subscribers a month on an average. On 25 October, 2018, RSTV's Facebook page crossed 1 lakh followers and on 6 August, 2018, RSTV's Twitter handle @rajyasabhatv crossed 50 thousand followers. In addition, several verified handles started following the RSTV's Twitter handle, which includes several Members of Parliament.
- (ii) Upgradation of RSTV website from HTTP to HTTPS: Rajya Sabha Television is owned and operated by the Upper House of Parliament of India. To ensure that RSTV viewers get safe and secure data, RSTV website has been shifted from <http://rstv.nic.in/> to <https://rstv.nic.in/>.
- (iii) Setting up of infrastructure for Media Asset Management (MAM): In the field of broadcasting, video footage is a precious asset. Previously, Rajya Sabha Proceedings were recorded by RSTV and they were submitted to the Lobby Office. Now, RSTV has been entrusted with the task of being the custodian of video footage. For better management and storage of video footage, RSTV has set up a state-of the art Media Asset Management System. This system is dedicated for recording and archiving Rajya Sabha proceedings.
- (iv) Replacement of Air Conditioning Plant in Production Control Room (PCR) in Parliament House: Rajya Sabha Television has set up a dedicated PCR in Room No. 50 of Parliament House for live coverage of the proceedings. A new AC plant has been installed and now the whole array of broadcast equipment installed in the PCR is functioning in an adequately controlled environment.

- (v) Installation of in-house Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) Network of RSTV: Previously, RSTV used dedicated OFC links hired on rental basis from Parliament House to RSTV, 12A, GRG Road for the purpose of live telecast of proceedings of the House and other events. RSTV has put in place its own OFC network (Point to Point) from Parliament House to 12A, GRG Road during 2018.

#### *Sales and Archives Section*

During the year, on the recommendation of the Purchase Committee, 06 Souvenir Items were selected for use of Conference and Protocol Section to be used during conference visits of Delegations. Likewise, 03 Swipe Machines at three Sales counters were installed for the first time to facilitate Hon'ble Members and Visitors.

#### *Parliament Security Service*

As approved by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, a session on 'Physical Conditioning Programme' (PCP) for officers/officials of Parliament Security Service was conducted on every Friday/last working day of the week, from 0800 to 0900 hours during Inter-Session period within the periphery of Parliament House Complex.

#### *Printing Section - I*

In November 2017, a Committee of Officers of the Secretariat was constituted by the Secretary-General under the Chairmanship of the then Additional Secretary (L) to look into the multiplicity of publications being brought out by different Sections of the Secretariat and to suggest measures for reducing the number of such publications. As directed by the Secretary-General, the Printing Section provided all the Secretarial support to the Committee.

The Committee submitted two reports to the Secretary-General. The recommendations made therein were placed before Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha. All the recommendations made by the Committee were accepted. The net effect of the recommendations of the Committee is that: (a) 41 publications are to be discontinued; (b) 53 publications are to be digitized; (c) Number of copies of 5 publications are to be reduced; (d) 5 publications are to be prepared in electronic form only; and (e) 48 publications are to be retained. Recommendations of the said Committee of Officers were circulated for implementation in the Secretariat.

#### *Simultaneous Interpretation Service*

Simultaneous Interpretation Service took the initiative to implement the scheme for empanelment of Consultant Interpreters for five languages as desired by the Hon'ble Chairman, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, to fulfill the commitment under Article 120 of the Constitution for providing simultaneous interpretation in all the 22 languages listed in the VIII Schedule to the Constitution of India. The first phase of the project was to empanel Consultant Interpreters for the 5 languages, namely Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Santhali and Sindhi, the languages for which interpretation facility was not available either in Rajya Sabha or in Lok Sabha. Certificates to the successful Consultant Interpreters were awarded by the Hon'ble Chairman on 10 July, 2018.

#### *Rajbhasha Prabhag*

Rajbhasha Prabhag has been instrumental in promoting the use of Hindi in the Secretariat by organizing different competitions and programmes during *Hindi Pakhwara* week. To encourage officers/officials to use Hindi and participate in such programmes, this year all the participants who could not win any prize during competitions held on the occasion of *Hindi Pakhwara*, were gifted with one pen-drive each.



### *Translation (Committee – I) Section*

As a new initiative, an MS-Access based application is being used for the purpose of diary and dispatch of Dak/receipts. Efforts are being made to use this application in official language i.e. Hindi. Leave record of the Section is also being maintained in MS-Excel format digitally. In addition, a Register in MS-Excel format is being maintained for keeping record of reports of the Committees received for translation and their disposal as per requirement which was done earlier manually. Daily work distribution sheet is also maintained digitally in MS-Word format.

### *Committee Section (MPLADS)*

In order to have an insight into the problems being faced by the Members in getting timely and smooth execution of the works recommended by them under the MPLADS, a letter under the signature of Hon'ble Deputy Chairman and Chairman, Committee on MPLADS was sent to each Member of Rajya Sabha seeking his/her opinion and suggestions to make the Scheme more effective and transparent.



## Parliament and the People

### *Parliament Security Service*

There are two Reception Offices located in the Parliament House Complex, one at Parliament House (PH) and the other at the Parliament House Annexe (PHA). These Reception Offices help visitors to meet Members of Parliament, Ministers, officers and staff of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The Reception Offices also issue entry passes to the officials of the Ministries/ Departments coming to the Parliament House and the Parliament House Annexe in connection with their official work. In the year 2018, these Reception Offices issued 61465 entry passes/permits in all in favour of the family members/guests of Hon'ble Members of Parliament, guests of the officials of Rajya Sabha Secretariat and officials who reported for duty inside Parliament House Complex during the session and inter-session period. These included 39210 passes (including passes for show-round) issued from the Reception Office, PH; 21036 from Reception Office, PHA and 1219 manual casual entry passes issued through Talkatora Gate No.1.

In addition to the above, Centralised Pass Issue Cell (CPIC), Rajya Sabha Secretariat issued/ updated 1334 Radio Frequency (RF) tags. Further, CPIC also issued/renewed 1008 Driver passes, 455 casual passes, 7115 Official Box/Diplomat passes, 840 Press Gallery passes, 9627 Public/ Distinguished Visitors Gallery passes (including group passes) and 195 Central Hall passes in favour of the visitors in 2018.

During the year 2018, attendance of 2653 officials of the Ministries and 5057 Press Correspondents was registered. Further, 386 Distinguished Visitors and 7300 visitors of the Public Gallery witnessed the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha from galleries. On the recommendation of Members of Parliament/Officers of the Secretariat, 13579 visitors were taken for show-around of the Parliament House by the Parliament Security Service staff. In all, the security staff regulated a flow of 76861 visitors/guests, excluding the officials of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Allied Services, inside the Parliament House Complex during the year.

### *RTI Cell*

After the promulgation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, the same was implemented in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat *w.e.f.* September 2005. The first Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) and the first Appellate Authority of the Secretariat were appointed *vide* notifications dated 30.09.2005 and 07.10.2005, respectively. Later on, an RTI Cell was set up in May 2007 to deal with all RTI related work in the Secretariat under the supervision of the CPIO, Rajya Sabha Secretariat as per the provisions of the RTI Act. On 5 October, 2015 the Secretariat adopted the Online RTI System of Department of Personnel and Training. The RTI has played a pivotal role in bringing the citizens of the country closer to the working of the Parliament.

During the year 2018, the RTI Cell received 566 Offline RTI applications, 1100 Online RTI applications, 112 Offline First Appeals, 86 Online First Appeals, 33 Second Appeals filed with the Central Information Commission (CIC), 5 miscellaneous applications and 95 link applications. The Secretariat received a total of Rs. 9043/- towards application fees and cost of information under the RTI Act. These financial details are maintained separately in a Cash Register.



## International Cooperation and Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue

Inter-parliamentary cooperation promotes understanding at the level of people's representatives. In order to promote understanding among parliamentarians of the world and also put forth India's viewpoint at various fora, sixteen Indian parliamentary delegations attended international conferences/meetings in various countries during the year. During this period, a total of six foreign parliamentary delegations visited India. The details of these visits are given in the Tables (A & B) below:

### A. VISITS OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS ABROAD DURING THE YEAR 2018

#### 1. INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/ MEETINGS

Sl. No.	Country	Date of Visit	Purpose of Visit	Name of Rajya Sabha Members
	London, UK	26 Feb.- 1 Mar., 2018	The Commonwealth Parliamentarians' Forum	Shri Om Prakash Mathur (BJP) Shri Vivek Gupta (TMC)
2.	Geneva, Switzerland	23-30 Mar., 2018	138 <sup>th</sup> Assembly of IPU	Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey (BJD) Dr. Vikas Mahatme (BJP)
3.	Cyprus	26-27 June, 2018	Meeting of the Standing Committee of Asian Parliamentary Assembly on Economic and Sustainable Development	Shri Amar Shankar Sable (BJP)
4.	Colombo, Sri Lanka	10-13 July, 2018	South Asian Speakers' Summit on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita (INC)
5.	Toronto, Canada	5-6 Sept., 2018	Meeting of the SOCATT Parliaments**	-----
6.	Colombo, Sri Lanka	16-20 Sept., 2018	First Meeting of the Parliamentarians' Evaluation Forum Eval Colombo 2018	Smt. Vandana Chavan (NCP)
7.	Baku, Azerbaijan	19-22 Sept., 2018	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Function of the First Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan	Shri Vijaisai Reddy (Y.S.R. CONG.)

\*\* The meeting was attended by Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date of Visit</b>	<b>Purpose of Visit</b>	<b>Name of Rajya Sabha Members</b>
8.	Brussels, Belgium	26-29 Sept., 2018	10 <sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP-10)	Shri Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati (BJP)
9.	Izmir, Turkey	4-6 Oct., 2018	Meeting of the APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and First Executive Council	Dr. Sonal Mansingh (Nominated)
10.	Geneva, Switzerland	14-18 Oct., 2018	139 <sup>th</sup> Assembly of IPU	Shri Harivansh, HDC Shri Anil Desai (SS)
11.	Buenos Aires, Argentina	28 Oct. - 4 Nov., 2018	G-20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit	Shri T.K.Rangarajan, CPI (M)
12.	Istanbul, Turkey	28 Nov. - 3 Dec., 2018	Second Executive Council Meeting and 11 <sup>th</sup> Plenary of APA	Shri Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD)
13.	Geneva, Switzerland	3-5 Dec., 2018	Eighth World E-Parliament Conference	Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar (BJP)
14.	Geneva, Switzerland	6-8 Dec., 2018	Annual 2018 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO	Shri Swapan Dasgupta (Nominated)

## 2. GOODWILL DELEGATIONS

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date of Visit</b>	<b>Name of Rajya Sabha Members</b>
1.	Belarus	8-13 June, 2018	Dr. K. Keshava Rao (TRS) Shri G.V. Narasimha Rao (BJP)
2.	Latvia	12-18 June, 2018	Shri K.C. Ramamurthy (INC)

## B. VISITS OF FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO INDIA DURING THE YEAR 2018

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date of Visit</b>	<b>No. of Delegates</b>	<b>Name of Leader</b>
1.	Republic of Chile	5-9 Feb., 2018	7	Mr. Fidel Espinoza, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile (Lower House). The delegation called on HVPI/HC, Rajya Sabha on 5 February, 2018 at Parliament House.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Date of Visit</b>	<b>No. of Delegates</b>	<b>Name of Leader</b>
2.	Republic of Korea	8-11 Mar., 2018	6	Mr. Chung Sye-Kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. The delegation called on HVPI/HC, Rajya Sabha on 8 March, 2018 at Parliament House.
3.	Republic of Rwanda	8-13 July, 2018	6	Mr. Bernard Makuza, President of the Senate, Republic of Rwanda. The delegation called on HVPI/HC, Rajya Sabha on 10 July, 2018 at Parliament House Annexe (Extension Building). An MoU was signed by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Hon'ble President of the Senate of the Republic of Rwanda. This was the first MoU in the history of Rajya Sabha signed with the Upper House of the Republic of Rwanda.
4.	France	23-29 Sept., 2018	4	Mr. Yvon Collin, President of the India-France Friendship Group of the French Senate. The delegation called on HDC, Rajya Sabha on 25 September, 2018 at Parliament House.
5.	Russian Federation	8 - 10 Dec., 2018	20	Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The delegation called on HVPI/HC, Rajya Sabha on 10 December, 2018 at Parliament House Annexe (Extension Building).
6.	Zambia	16 - 21 Dec., 2018	5	Dr. Patrick Matibini, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia. The delegation called on HVPI/HC, Rajya Sabha on 17 December, 2018 at Parliament House.



## Secretariat

The total in-position staff strength of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2018 stood at 1426 (1358 + 68 tenure) out of sanctioned strength of 1812 (1728+84) tenure). From amongst the in-position officials, 442 persons were holding Group 'A' posts. On attaining the age of superannuation, 43 employees retired from service in the Secretariat. Besides, 1 employee took voluntary retirement, 2 employees passed out during the year and 1 employee was removed from the service on disciplinary grounds.

The Secretariat consists of the following Services:

- (i) Legislative, Financial, Executive and Administrative Service;
- (ii) Library, Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service;
- (iii) Verbatim Reporting Service;
- (iv) Private Secretaries & Stenographic Service;
- (v) Simultaneous Interpretation Service;
- (vi) Printing & Publications Service;
- (vii) Editorial and Translation Service;
- (viii) Parliament Security Service;
- (ix) Drivers & Dispatch Riders Service;
- (x) Messenger Service; and
- (xi) Rajya Sabha Television Unit.

Brief description of the mandate of the Secretary-General, Secretary, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Directors and Additional Directors in-charge of different Divisions/Services is given on the Rajya Sabha website *i.e.* under links [rajyasabha.nic.in](http://rajyasabha.nic.in) → Secretariat → Organisation Chart. Similarly, for detailed work performance of the respective Services/Sections, Annual Report 2018 can be referred to which is uploaded under the links [rajyasabha.nic.in](http://rajyasabha.nic.in) → Secretariat → Annual Reports.

**Bills passed/returned by the Rajya Sabha during 2018**

Sl. No	Title of the Bill	Date and House in which introduced	Date of passing in originating House	Date of passing/retuning by the other House	Date of President's Assent	Act No.	Date of Publication in the Gazette	Remarks
1.	The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>18/12/ 2017</u> L .S.	15/03/ 2018	22/03/2018	28/03/ 2018	12 of 2018	29/03/ 2018	
2.	The Finance Bill, 2018*	<u>01/02/ 2018</u> L .S.	14/03/ 2018	-----	29/03/ 2018	13 of 2018	29/03/ 2018	Money Bill
3.	The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2018♣	<u>14/03/ 2018</u> L .S.	14/03/ 2018	-----	29/03/ 2018	14 of 2018	29/03/ 2018	Money Bill
4.	The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2018♣	<u>14/03/ 2018</u> L .S.	14/03/ 2018	-----	29/03/ 2018	15 of 2018	29/03/ 2018	Money Bill
5.	The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>19/8/ 2013</u> R.S.	19/7/ 2018	24/7/ 2018	26/7/ 2018	16 of 2018	26/7/ 2018	
6.	The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018	<u>12/3/ 2018</u> L.S.	19/7/ 2018	25/7/ 2018	31/7/ 2018	17 of 2018	1/8/ 2018	Ordinance-replacing Bill.
7.	The Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>22/12/ 2017</u> L.S.	15/3/ 2018	23/7/ 2018	1/8/ 2018	18 of 2018	1/8/ 2018	
8.	The State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>21/7/ 2017</u> L .S.	<u>10/8/ 2017</u> 30/7/ 2018 <sup>‡</sup>	18/7/ 2018	2/8/ 2018	19 of 2018	2/8/ 2018	
9.	The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>2/1/ 2018</u> L .S.	23/7/ 2018	26/7/ 2018	2/8/ 2018	20 of 2018	2/8/ 2018	
10.	The Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>18/7/ 2017</u> L .S.	<u>20/12/ 2017</u> 7/8/ 2018 <sup>‡</sup>	18/7/ 2018	9/8/ 2018	21 of 2018	9/8/ 2018	
11.	The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>23/7/ 2018</u> L .S.	30/7/ 2018	6/8/ 2018	11/8/ 2018	22 of 2018	11/8/ 2018	Ordinance-replacing Bill
12.	The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-third Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>5/4/ 2017</u> L .S.	<u>10/4/ 2017</u> 2/8/ 2018*	<u>31/7/ 2017</u> 6/8/ 2018 <sup>Ω</sup>	11/8/ 2018	----	11/8/ 2018	After enactment, the Bill became the Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018
13.	The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>23/7/ 2018</u> L.S.	30/7/ 2018	9/8/ 2018	13/8/ 2018	23 of 2018	13/8/ 2018	Ordinance-replacing Bill.
14.	The National Commission	<u>5/4/ 2017</u>	<u>10/4/ 2017</u>	6/8/ 2018	14/8/ 2018	24 of	14/8/ 2018	

\* The Bill could not be returned by the Rajya Sabha and was deemed to have been passed by both Houses under Article 109(5) of the Constitution.

<sup>‡</sup> Formal amendments made by the Rajya Sabha were agreed to by the Lok Sabha.

\* Lok Sabha made alternative amendment and further amendments.

<sup>Ω</sup> Alternative amendment and further amendments made by the Lok Sabha were agreed to by the Rajya Sabha.

	for Backward Classes (Repeal) Bill, 2018	L.S.	9/8/ 2018 <sup>£</sup>			2018		
15.	The National Sports University Bill, 2018	<u>27/7/ 2018</u> L.S.	3/8/ 2018	9/8/ 2018	17/8/ 2018	25 of 2018	17/8/ 2018	Ordinance-replacing Bill.
16.	The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>23/7/ 2018</u> L.S.	31/7/ 2018	10/8/ 2018	17/8/ 2018	26 of 2018	17/8/ 2018	Ordinance-replacing Bill.
17.	The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018	<u>3/8/ 2018</u> L.S.	6/8/ 2018	9/8/ 2018	17/8/ 2018	27 of 2018	17/8/ 2018	
18.	The Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2018	<u>23/7/ 2018</u> L.S.	1/8/ 2018	10/8/ 2018	20/8/ 2018	28 of 2018	21/8/ 2018	Ordinance-replacing Bill.
19.	The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2018♣	<u>7/8/ 2018</u> L.S.	7/8/ 2018	-----	24/8/ 2018	29 of 2018	25/8/ 2018	Money Bill
20.	The Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2018♣	<u>7/8/ 2018</u> L.S.	7/8/ 2018	-----	24/8/ 2018	30 of 2018	25/8/ 2018	Money Bill
21.	The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018♣	<u>7/8/ 2018</u> L.S.	9/8/ 2018	-----	29/8/ 2018	31 of 2018	30/8/ 2018	Money Bill
22.	The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018♣	<u>7/8/ 2018</u> L.S.	9/8/ 2018	-----	29/8/ 2018	32 of 2018	30/8/ 2018	Money Bill
23.	The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2018♣	<u>7/8/ 2018</u> L.S.	9/8/ 2018	-----	29/8/ 2018	33 of 2018	30/8/ 2018	Money Bill
24.	The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2018♣	<u>7/8/ 2018</u> L.S.	9/8/ 2018	-----	29/8/ 2018	34 of 2018	30/8/ 2018	Money Bill
25.	The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Bill, 2018.	<u>18/7/ 2018</u> R.S.	12/12/ 2018	20/12/ 2018	29/12/ 2018	35 of 2018	29/12/ 2018	
26.	The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2019	<u>11/08/ 2017</u> L.S.	<u>18/7/ 2018</u> 07/01/2019 <sup>£</sup>	03/1/ 2019	10/1/ 2019	1 of 2019	11/1/ 2019	The Bill was introduced as the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Second Amendment) Bill, 2017
27.	The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2019	<u>18/12/ 2017</u> L.S.	<u>23/7/ 2018</u> 07/01/ 2019 <sup>£</sup>	03/1/ 2019	10/1/ 2019	2 of 2019	11/1/ 2019	
28.	The Appropriation (No.6) Bill, 2018♣	<u>31/12/ 2018</u> L.S.	31/12/ 2018	-----	16/1/ 2019	3 of 2019	16/1/ 2019	Money Bill

♣ The Bill could not be returned by the Rajya Sabha and was deemed to have been passed by both Houses under Article 109(5) of the Constitution.

£ Formal amendments made by the Rajya Sabha were agreed to by Lok Sabha.



29.	The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty –fourth Amendment) Bill, 2019	<u>08/1/2019</u> L.S.	08/1/2019	09/1/2019	12/1/2019	-----	12/1/2019	After enactment, the Bill became the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019