



## Secretariat

**T**he total staff strength of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2007 stood at 1466, out of which 400 persons were holding Group 'A' posts. On attaining the age of superannuation, 13 persons retired from service in the Secretariat. However, two persons took voluntary retirement and three persons expired during the year.

The Secretariat consists of the following main 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) Watch & Ward, Door Keeping and Sanitation Service;
- (ix) Drivers & Despatch Riders Service; and
- (x) Messenger Service.

Dr. Yogendra Narain relinquished the charge of the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha on 14 September 2007. Dr. Vivek Kumar Agnihotri, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, was appointed as the Secretary-General,

Rajya Sabha with effect from the forenoon of 29 October 2007.

A brief description of the mandate of the Secretary-General, Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Directors and Joint Directors in charge of different divisions/services is given in the

accompanying Table.

*O&M: efficiency, transparency, order and method:*

The responsibilities of the O&M Section are designed to bring out more efficiency and transparency in the working of the Secretariat through improvement of the organizational pattern and simplification of procedures, etc.

In order to improve and augment efficiency in the Secretariat through planning, Annual Action Plan for the year 2007 was invited from all the Sections setting goals/target for each Section. Subsequently, at the end of the year, concerned Joint Secretaries reviewed Action Plans of Sections under their charge and submitted a status report. Secretary-General, thereafter, held review meetings of some Sections, which were unable to meet the targets as per Action Plan with Secretary, OSD (S) and Joint Secretaries.

The Section compiled and circulated Annual Report for the year 2006 in respect of the Secretariat to have a holistic performance appraisal of the Secretariat. The Report was uploaded on the Internet at the web site of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Initiatives have also been taken regarding preparation of Annual Report for the year 2007.

During the year, the Section was also responsible for successful conduct of inspection of 52 Sections of the Secretariat. The observations of the Inspecting Officers were conveyed to the concerned Sections for follow-up action with the request to furnish Action Taken Report thereon. Action Taken Reports from more than 20 Sections were received and examined by the O&M Section. Steps have been initiated to conduct inspection of 35 Sections of the Secretariat for the year 2007.

This Section has been assigned to conduct the workload assessment and manpower requirements of Sections of the Secretariat. Workload assessment in respect of all the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee Sections, Committee Section (Coordination), G.A. Section, Watch & Ward

Service and Reporters Branch was initiated during the year. Since the Cadre Review Report was submitted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad taking into account the work of these Sections, it was decided to put the workload assessment on hold.

In order to revamp the preparation of Annual Action Plan, 2008, Secretary-General directed that the Action Plan of each Section should have following three components for every activity mentioned therein: -

- a) - Quantitative targets, wherever possible, be fixed/mentioned.
  - Qualitative targets be prescribed for other items
  - A separate section on new initiatives (self improvement) should be incorporated.

Thus, the Annual Action Plan shall be in three parts, viz Quantitative, Qualitative and Innovative.

- a) Status Report on Annual Action Plan should, wherever possible, include number of items brought forward from previous year/ quarter, added during the year/quarter, disposed of and pendency at the end of the period. This will provide an intelligible comparison of the work done by the Branch/ Section in a year. All Branches/Sections should examine the viability/modalities of bringing out a publication containing important decisions taken regarding their working and also another publication containing activities being undertaken by the Branch/ Section.
- b) Work of reviewing of the Manual of Office Procedure of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been initiated by the Section. Accordingly, all Branches/Sections have been requested to incorporate changes concerning the functioning of their Sections that have taken place since the Manual of Office Procedure of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat published in 2002, and new Branches/Sections/Services created thereafter, have been requested to provide chapters on their functioning. The work is still under progress.

#### *Dispatch and distribution work:*

Distribution Section of the Secretariat is the nodal section for receiving the communications for and behalf of the Secretariat, its officers/sections and for distributing Parliamentary papers to

the Presiding Officers, Members, Officers/Sections of the Secretariat, Ministries and Departments of the Government and others. During the year 2007, the Distribution Section received 45,800 communications. The total number of dispatches made by Section during the year was 5,71,490.

*Printing work:*

The Printing and Publications Service of the Secretariat handled a total 1,83,216 pages during the year 2007.

*Training and capacity building of officers and staff:*

Training Unit conducts various training programmes for the Members of Parliament, officers and staff of this Secretariat. Training programmes include both in-house trainings and trainings at outside institutions. Officers are also nominated for various foreign training programmes.

During the year 2007, Training Unit organized various in-house training programmes on subjects such as Office Procedure, Parliamentary Practice & Procedure, and Interpretation.

Officials were nominated to attend two different training programmes organized by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) on various subjects such as Right to Information Act, 2005, and Training programme for Private Secretaries. Besides, four officials were nominated to attend different training programmes conducted by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat such as Training Programme on Working of Questions, Legislative and Budgetary Process of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats, and Training Course for newly recruited Senior/Junior Library Assistants. Nineteen officials from Estt. (A/cs) & Budget Section and three officials from P&AO were nominated to attend a training programme on Composite Payroll System at the National Informatics Centre (NIC), CGO Complex, New Delhi.

Twenty-five Officials were nominated to attend the Customized Computer Training Programme on e-governance at the National Informatics Centre, CGO Complex, New Delhi. Twenty officials were nominated to attend a Training Programme on Management Development at Mussoorie (Uttarakhand).

Staff of Watch & Ward Office attended different training programmes such as Refresher Training Course organized by Delhi Police at the Delhi Police [Sec. Wing], New Delhi, Training Programme on Identification and Handling of Explosive at ITBP, Mussoorie, in-house Refresher Course on Security Aspects, Training Programme on Yoga at the Morarji Desai Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, Training Programme on Nuclear Biology, Chemical (NBC) at the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO), Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh and also at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Besides, some officers attended a Workshop on Life Saving First Aid organized by the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade, Delhi at the ATP Wing, Parliament Library Building (PLB).

Six Officers from Editorial and Translation Service, Verbatim Reporting Service and Simultaneous Interpretation Service and Private & Stenographic Service represented the Rajya Sabha Secretariat at the 20<sup>th</sup> All India Official Language Conference held at Kolkata in October, 2007. Four Officers were nominated to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> Seminar and Hindi Workshop on Official Language, at Dalhousie, 2007.

During the year 2007, eighteen officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat were nominated to attend various training programmes/conference abroad. Three officers were nominated to attend the Vishwa Hindi Sammalen at New York, USA. One officer was nominated to attend the Parliamentary Officers' Study Programme conducted by Parliament of Canada at Ottawa, Canada. One officer from Research & Library Service was nominated to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> Pre-Conference for Research and Library Services for Parliaments at Cape Town, South Africa and the 72<sup>nd</sup> International Federation of Library Association (IFLA), General Conference and Council held at Durban, South Africa in August 2007. A group of twelve officers were nominated to attend a tailor made training programme on "Parliamentary Administration" held at the Royal Institute of Public Administration (RIPA), London. One officer from Watch & Ward Service was nominated to attend the training programme on Maintenance Aspects of the Security gadgets at ECIL, Elkhata, Germany.

The Training Unit received delegates from abroad for interaction with the officers of the Secretariat. A delegation from the House of Representatives of Thailand, visited twice, first team of 21 officials visited in the month of September 2007, and second team of 17 officials visited in the month of December 2007. A

delegation from Touro Law College, Law Center, USA including 15 students and 3 faculty members also visited the Secretariat.

Training Unit also organized Computer Clinic for Members and their personal staff in collaboration with the National Informatics Center (NIC).

*Research notes/ interventions/ speeches/ messages, etc., for use of Presiding Officers and Secretary – General:*

During the year 2007, Research and Library Section prepared a number of research notes/interventions on various items of agenda for use of the Deputy Chairman and Secretary-General for various parliamentary conferences such as the Conference of the Presiding Officers/Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in May 2007; 44<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments held in New Delhi from 26-27 September 2007; Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) Conference held at Geneva from 8-10 October 2007; and Conference of the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth held in London, from 2-6 January 2008.

Besides, 19 speeches/addresses, 4 articles, 2 messages, and 1 background note for the use of hon'ble Chairman, hon'ble Deputy Chairman and Secretary-General including a draft Farewell Address at the Farewell Function organised in honour of former Chairman,, Rajya Sabha on 7 August, 2007 at Parliament House Annexe, a draft address on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 15 August 2007; a draft address at the Inaugural Ceremony of the 27<sup>th</sup> Small Countries Conference on 23 September 2007 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi; a draft address at the inaugural ceremony of the 53<sup>rd</sup> CPA Conference held on 25 September 2007 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi; a draft speech on the occasion of the conferment of Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006; a draft speech at the Symposium on 'Ethics in Public Life' held at the Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in May 2007; a draft address at the launch of 'Mantra-Rajya Sabha Translation Software' on 21 August 2007; a draft Address for use at the Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala in May 2007; article on 'Bicameralism in Indian Polity' was prepared for being published in a special supplement to the Parliamentarian; article titled '

Parliament and the Right to Information' for inclusion in a commemorative Souvenir proposed to be published on the occasion of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference; and a background note on 'Relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary' for use at the Parliamentary delegation from Afghanistan.

In addition, notes on Parliaments of China, Romania, Trinidad and Tobago, Afghanistan, Norway, Malta, Cuba, Germany, Austria, Bahrain and Czech Republic were prepared for use of the Chairman and the Secretary-General during the visits of parliamentary delegations from these countries. Apart from it, the Section also brought out four publications namely 'Rajya Sabha and its Secretariat: A Performance Profile, 2006'; 'Rajya Sabha at Work'; 'Who's Who- Rajya Sabha 2006'; and 'An Introduction to Parliament of India'.

In addition, 3 research notes on issues likely to be raised during the Winter Session, 2007 (212<sup>th</sup> Session) were prepared for use of the Hon'ble Chairman. These included 'Child Labour in Textile Industry: Withdrawal by GAP of garment sourcing from India'; 'Farmer's Problems: controversy regarding Export of Rice/Import of Wheat, Support Prices for Wheat and Paddy; and 'Janadesh 2007' Rally in Delhi on 28 October 2007-National Land Reforms Council'.

This Section also maintains a small Library for use of officers and staff of the Secretariat, who are permitted to borrow books for official use. During the year 2007, 146 books and journals were added to the Library and 274 books/ magazines were issued to the officers and staff of the Secretariat. Besides, 65 books were purchased and supplied to officers/sections.

#### *Press and Media work:*

Press & Media Unit was created with effect from 17 November 2003 to act as the nodal Section for the work relating to liaison with press and media agencies, correspondents and journalists. During the year 2007, Press & Media Unit issued 2 passes to the journalists under Long and Distinguished Service category. The Unit also issued 256 permanent photo passes to the correspondents of newspapers/news agencies/electronic media having a sanctioned quota for the Rajya Sabha Press Gallery for one-year duration. During the year, 1 newspaper was admitted to the Rajya Sabha Press Gallery. Names of 731 journalists eligible for Temporary and Sessional cards were recommended to the

Centralised Pass Issue Cell (CPIC) for issuance of bar coded passes. Seven journalists were also given the Central Hall facilities during the year. Names of 283 journalists having permanent Rajya Sabha Press Gallery passes were sent to the Centralised Pass Issue Cell (CPIC) for issue of R.F. Tags. Press and Media Unit also issues Parking Labels to press correspondents to enable them to have unhindered entry into the Parliament House Complex. During the year, 115 Annual Parking Labels and 190 Sessional Parking Labels were issued to the media persons.

Press and Media Unit manages a Press Counter near the Press Gallery of Rajya Sabha. During the Session period, one person is deputed to the Press Counter to provide parliamentary papers to the correspondents of both print and electronic media covering the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha. Parliamentary papers such as Bills, List of Business, List of Starred/Unstarred Questions, Statements made by the Ministers, Reports of various Parliamentary Committees, Special Mentions, etc. were supplied/made available at the Press Counter during the sessions. This apart, various press releases and notices were also supplied to media persons through the Press Counter.

The Unit also did a large amount of liaison work with different news agencies, newspapers and electronic media persons for giving wide publicity to the activities and events that took place during the year. Some of these activities included Oath taking ceremony of the newly elected/re-elected/nominated Members of Rajya Sabha held on 23 March, 3 April, 5 & 15 June, 25 & 26 July, 1 August and 15 October, 2007; Press Conferences held at Parliament House/Parliament House Annexe, addressed by the Chairman, Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances Law & Justice on 18 January, 2007, 15 March, 2007 & 17 August, 2007, and Chairman, Committee on Commerce on 6 July, 2007; Visits of foreign parliamentary delegations from Trinidad & Tobago, Spain, Thailand, Norway, Cuba, China, Germany and Afghanistan; Farewell function of the former Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Launching of Mantra – Rajya Sabha Translation Software by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Farewell function in honour of former Secretary-General, Dr. Yogendra Narain; Appointment and assumption of Office of Secretary-General by Dr. V.K. Agnihotri; Inaugural Session of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in New Delhi from 21 to 30 September, 2007 addressed by Hon'ble Chairman; Third India-Asia Region Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Islamabad attended by Hon'ble Deputy Chairman; Winning of Inter-Ministerial Football Tournament (2006-2007) by the Rajya



Sabha Secretariat's Team; Valedictory Remarks by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha at the end of 210<sup>th</sup>, 211<sup>th</sup> and 212<sup>th</sup> Sessions; and Unveiling of Statue of Maharana Pratap in Parliament House organised by the Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha.

The Unit issued press releases both in English and Hindi to ensure adequate publicity to a number of important events such as oath taking ceremony of newly elected/re-elected/nominated Members held from time to time; visits of foreign parliamentary delegations; Seminar on Initiatives in Government Accounting Reforms organized by Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; unveiling of statue of Maharana Pratap in Parliament House; farewell ceremony organized in honour of the former Chairman of Rajya Sabha; Launching of 'MANTRA-Rajya Sabha Translation Software by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha; appointment and assumption of office of Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha by Dr. V.K. Agnihotri.

The Unit prepared briefs and notes relating to its mandate as and when required. During the year, a self contained note was prepared for constituting a Press Advisory Committee for Rajya Sabha & submitted for approval of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. Detailed replies to a Questionnaire on Parliament and Media received from the ASGP for its Plenary Session held at Bali, Indonesia from 30 April to 4 May 2007, were prepared and sent to the Conference and Protocol section for necessary action. In

Farewell to Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Chairman, Rajya Sabha:

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat assumed the office of the Vice-President of India on 19 August 2002. Under the provision of the Constitution, the Vice-President of India is also the *ex officio* Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Shri Shekhawat became the 11<sup>th</sup> Chairman of Rajya Sabha. On 21 July 2007, he resigned from the office of the Vice-President of India. A function was organized on 7 August 2007 at Parliament House Annexe to bid farewell to the former Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The farewell function was attended by dignitaries including the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, several Union Ministers and Members of Rajya Sabha. During the function, the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha presented Shri Shekhawat with a 'Scroll of Honour' which touched upon the various aspects of his political career. Shri Shekhawat was complemented for effectively managing the proceedings of the House. On his part, the former Chairman expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support he received from Members of Rajya Sabha in smoothly running the House. He further said that quality of governance in democracy would critically hinge on the quality of business transacted in Parliament. He expressed great satisfaction that Rajya Sabha had been engaged in constructive and purposeful discussions on key issues and challenges facing the nation.

addition to the above enumerated tasks, the Unit performed important tasks related to the Vice-Presidential Election-2007 which included: recommending the nomination of accredited media persons to the Election Commission of India for issue of passes to cover the election; issue of passes to such media persons received from the Election Commission of India; making of necessary arrangements for media persons to enable them to cover the casting and counting of votes; and making necessary arrangements for live coverage by the DD News of the post-counting Press conference addressed by the Secretary-General in his capacity as Returning Officer for the election.

#### *Committee Coordination Section:*

The Committee Coordination Section was created in 2003 after the bifurcation of Committee Section II to act as the nodal Section for all the Committees. During the year 2007, the Committee Co-ordination Section dealt with a total number of 25 cases of elections and 19 cases of nominations of Members of Rajya Sabha to the various Statutory Bodies/Joint Parliamentary Committees. The Section also initiated timely action for the reconstitution of the Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs). While the twenty-four Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were reconstituted w.e.f. 5 August 2007, the reconstitution of 9 Standing Committees of Rajya Sabha (House Committees), which like the DRSCs, did not have a fixed tenure, was deferred, with the approval of Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, pending completion of the process of biennial elections due in April, 2008. Besides, notices of Motions for election/requests for nomination of Members of Rajya Sabha to the various Joint Parliamentary Committees/Parliamentary Fora were processed and the specified number of members got elected/nominated thereto. These included Committee on Public Accounts; Committee on Public Undertakings; Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; Joint Parliamentary Committee on Offices of Profit; Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament; Committee on Empowerment of Women; Library Committee; Railway Convention Committee; Committee on Food Management in Parliament House Complex; Joint Parliamentary Committee on Installation of Portraits/Statues of National Leaders and Parliamentarians in the Parliament House Complex; Ad-hoc Joint Committee to examine the Constitutional and Legal position relating to Offices of Profit; Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf; Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management; Parliamentary Forum on Youth; Parliamentary

Forum on Children; and Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health. In addition, the proposals received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat regarding extension of the tenure of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security Matters in Parliament House Complex and the Committee on Food Management in Parliament House Complex were also processed for the approval of Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha by the Section and the tenure of these two Committees was extended for one year each. Another request from the Chairman of Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf on behalf of the Committee seeking extension of the tenure of the Committee was processed and the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, with the concurrence of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha granted extension of the term of the Committee by one year w.e.f. 2 January 2007.

Requests from various Central Government Agencies and State Governments seeking approval of Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha to the nomination of Members of Rajya Sabha to various Committees/Bodies constituted by them received during the year 2007 were examined and processed in the Section in accordance with the provisions contained in the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 and, wherever considered necessary, references were made to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Offices of Profit for its opinion/recommendation in the light of which the cases were thereafter placed before the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha for his consideration/orders. During the year 2007, a total number of 19 requests seeking approval of Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha to the nomination of Members to various bodies were processed in the Section. These included Chair Professor on Satellite Education in IGNOU, Committee to Review the Functioning of IIMs, District Planning and Development Boards, Government of Punjab and Syndicate of Punjabi University, Patiala.

In addition, the Section compiled, published and distributed to the Members the publication titled "Rajya Sabha Committees-A Profile (2006)". A total of 109 Reports/Statements of various Committees received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat were also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

#### *Finance Unit:*

A new section, namely, **Finance Unit** was created with effect from 19 February 2007 to assist the Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser (JS&FA) in matters relating to

expenditure control and other financial/budgetary matters of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat which include:

- (i) examining the financial proposals referred to J.S. & F.A. from time to time;
- (ii) effective control of expenditure;
- (iii) analyzing the pattern of monthly, quarterly and annual expenditure and submit the same to the Secretary-General through J.S. & F.A.;
- (iv) ensuring that rush of expenditure during the closing months of a financial year is avoided as far as possible;
- (v) preparing replies to audit objections; and
- (vi) taking requisite corrective action to minimize the scope for the Auditors to raise objections, etc.

*Reorganisation of Computer Cell:*

Besides, as part of the re-organisation of the Computer Cell, two new sections namely **IT Section (Hardware)** and **IT Section (Software)** were created in 2007. The mandate of the IT Section (Hardware) *inter alia* includes all work relating to procurement, maintenance, installation and disposal of hardware and work relating to network management. IT Section (Software) has been allocated work related to development, maintenance, procurement of software and redesigning of the Rajya Sabha website. Apart from it, two new sections, namely **Translation (Committee-II) Section** and **Translation (OIH) Section** were created in the Editorial and Translation Service in addition to the existing eight sections in the service.

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT  
(As on 9.06.2008)

*Main responsibilities of the officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat*

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Dr. V.K.Agnihotri Secretary-General 2303-4695 2301-7355 2301-8676 2379-2940 (Fax) 2303-4142 (PHA) 2301-5557 (PHA)	<b><i>Parliamentary Adviser to the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha and through him to the House.</i></b>
Shri N.C. Joshi Secretary 23034604 2301-1328 (Telefax)	<b><i>Administrative Head of the Secretariat of Rajya Sabha and overall in-charge of all administrative and executive functions on behalf and in the name of the Chairman.</i></b>
Shri R.K. Singh OSD(S) 2303-4206 2301-2592 2301-5585 (Fax)	<b><i>Printing &amp; Publications Service; Table Office; Notice Office; Lobby Office; Legislative Section; Bill Office; Watch &amp; Ward Office; Files relating to policy matters of all Standing Committees and Department-related Committees except House Committee; Any other work assigned</i></b>
Smt. Vandana Garg Joint Secretary (G) 2303-4212 2379-3412 2301-8708 (Fax)	<b><i>O &amp; M Section; MPLADS Committee; Distribution Branch; Personnel Section; Estt. (General) Section; Any other work assigned</i></b>
	<b><i>Questions Branch; Committee on Health &amp; Family Welfare; Committee Section – IV (Committee on Papers Laid on the Table); Committee on Human Resource Development; Any other work assigned</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Shri Tapan Chatterjee Joint Secretary (C) 2303-4530 2301-0718 2301-2007 (Fax)	<b><i>Committee on Home Affairs; Committee on Ethics; Conference &amp; Protocol Section; Committee Section – II (Committee on Petitions); Any other work assigned</i></b>
Shri Ravi Kant Chopra Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor (JS & FA) 2303-4204 2301-4948 (Telefax)	<b><i>Pay &amp; Accounts Office; Estt. (Accounts) &amp; Budget Section; All files dealing with financial matters involving expenditure beyond the delegated powers to JS and below; M.A. Section including House Committee; Training Unit; I.T. Sections &amp; Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha; Committee on Commerce; Any other work assigned</i></b>
Shri Sham Sher Singh Joint Secretary (S) 2303-4057 2379-4328	<b><i>Committee on Industry; Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law &amp; Justice; Committee Section-III (Committee on Government Assurances); MS &amp; A Section; Any other work assigned</i></b>
Shri S.K.Kathuria Joint Secretary (K) 2303-4239 2301-6431 2301-2522 (Tele-fax)	<b><i>Editorial and Translation Service; Simultaneous Interpretation Service; Any other work assigned</i></b>
Shri G.C. Miglani Joint Secretary (M) 2303-4557 2301-2550 2379-2812 ( Fax)	<b><i>Committee Co-ordination Section; JPC on Wakf; Sales and Archives; Any other work assigned</i></b>
Smt. Agnes Momin George Joint Secretary (AM) 2303-4202 2301-1805 2301-1245	<b><i>Committee on Science &amp; Technology, Environment and Forests; G.A. Section; Stores Section; Welfare Unit; any other work assigned</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Shri N. K. Singh Joint Secretary (N) 2303-4733 2379-3377 (Tele Fax)	<b><i>LARRDIS; Press &amp; Media; Printing &amp; Publications Service; Committee on Transport, Tourism &amp; Culture; Committee Section – I (Committee on Subordinate Legislation); Any other work assigned</i></b>
Shri Gobind Lal Joint Secretary (R) 2303-4137 2379-3419 2301-6805 (Fax)	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service; Any other work assigned</i></b>
Shri S.K. Watts Director (Comm.) 23034240 23013158	<b><i>Committee on Commerce; Questions Branch (One Group)</i></b>
Shri S.K. Ganguli Director (T) 2303-4668 2301-2083	<b><i>Table Office, Notice Office, Lobby Office, Committee Section-III (Committee on Government Assurances)</i></b>
Shri Deepak Goyal Director (Q) & Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) 23034201 23016014	<b><i>Questions Branch (One Group); RTI Cell;</i></b>
Shri Sanjay Singh Director (Security) 2303-5054 23035215 2301-1218 (Fax)	<b><i>Watch &amp; Ward, Door Keeping &amp; Sanitation Service</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Ms. Bharti Tiwari Director (Media) 2303-4532 2301-4850 (Tele-fax)	<b><i>Press &amp; Media</i></b>
Shri L.B.Shinde Director (Interpretation) 2303-4456 2301-3927	<b><i>Simultaneous Interpretation Service</i></b>
Shri P.P.K. Ramacharyulu Director (Home) 23034256 2301-3747	<b><i>Committee on Home Affairs; JPC on Wakf</i></b>
Shri Mukul Pande Director (L) 2303-4693 2301-8044	<b><i>IT Sections (Hardware and Software) and Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha; Bill Office; Legislative Section</i></b>
Smt. Kamlesh Verma Director (PSS) 2303-4124 2301-1973	<b><i>Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service</i></b>
Smt. Usha Sharma Director (E&T) 2303-4558	<b><i>Editorial &amp; Translation Service</i></b>
Shri A.K. Singh Director (M.A.) 2303-4543 2379-2819	<b><i>M.A. Section; Committee on Industry</i></b>
Shri S. D. Nautiyal Director (R&L) 23034216 2301-6806	<b><i>Research and Library Section</i></b>



<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Shri A.K. Chatterjee Director (Stores) 2303-4597 2379-3564	<b><i>Stores Sections; Committee Co-ordination Section</i></b>
Shri R.C.Virwani Director (Reporting) 2303-4275 2379-2848 2301-6805 (Fax)	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri N.S.Walia Director (C&P) 2303-4187 2379-3563	<b><i>Conference &amp; Protocol Section; Questions Branch (One Group)</i></b>
Shri H.C. Sethi Director (HRD) 2303-4014 2379-3101	<b><i>Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (Committee Section – IV); Committee on Human Resource Development</i></b>
Shri R.B. Gupta Director (H&F) & Welfare Officer 2303-4056 2379-2852	<b><i>Committee on Health &amp; Family Welfare; Welfare Unit</i></b>
Choudhury Ramakant Das Director (Interpretation) 23034191	<b><i>Simultaneous Interpretation Service</i></b>
Shri Raghab P. Dash Director (LARRDIS) 2303-5426 23018210	<b><i>Research &amp; Library Section</i></b>
Shri Sarjit Singh Lakra Joint Director (Security) 2303-4780 2301-7827	<b><i>Watch &amp; Ward, Door Keeping &amp; Sanitation Service</i></b>
Shri R.N. Bhatnagar Joint Director (Security) 2303-5077 2301-1370 (Tele Fax)	<b><i>Watch &amp; Ward, Door Keeping &amp; Sanitation Service</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Smt. Usha Dhingra Joint Director (PSS) 23034123 23011991 (Tele-fax)	<b><i>Private Secretaries &amp; Stenographic Service</i></b>
Shri B.K. Pant Joint Director (PSS) 23034127 23012006	<b><i>Private Secretaries &amp; Stenographic Service</i></b>
Shri D.P. Ahuja Joint Director (Ethics) 23034163	<b><i>Committee on Ethics</i></b>
Shri J.G. Negi Joint Director (E) 23034261	<b><i>Estt. (Accounts) &amp; Budget Section</i></b>
Smt Suman Ahuja Joint Director (PSS) 2303-4699 2301-7048	<b><i>Private Secretaries and Stenographic Services</i></b>
Shri C.B.Rai Joint Director (P) 23034162	<b><i>Personnel Section; Estt. (General) Section (all matters except leave)</i></b>
Shri Jagjit Singh Joint Director (E&T) 2303-4211	<b><i>Editorial and Translation Service</i></b>
Kum. L. Lakshmi Joint Director (R&L) 23034055	<b><i>Research &amp; Library Section</i></b>
Shri K.P. Singh Joint Director (P&L)	<b><i>Committee on Personnel, Public</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
2303-4292	<b><i>Grievances, Law &amp; Justice</i></b>
Shri Jagdish Kumar Joint Director (T&T) 2303-4061	<b><i>Committee on Transport, Tourism &amp; Culture</i></b>
Shri Rohtas Joint Director (Q-I) 2303-4252	<b><i>Questions Branch (One Group); Distribution Branch; O &amp; M Section</i></b>
Shri Jagmohan Sundriyal Joint Director (Com-II) 2303-4541	<b><i>Committee Section-II (Committee on Petitions); Committee on Human Resource Development</i></b>
Shri Mom Raj Singh Joint Director (S&A) 2303-4093	<b><i>Sales &amp; Archives Section</i></b>
Smt. Sunita Sekaran Pay & Accounts Officer 2303-4063	<b><i>Pay &amp; Accounts Office</i></b>
Shri S.K. Tripathi Joint Director (L) 2303-4967	<b><i>Bill Office; Legislative Section; Committee Section-III (Committee on Government Assurances)</i></b>
Shri A.K. Gandhi Joint Director (Co-ord) 2303-4539	<b><i>Committee Co-ordination Section</i></b>
Smt. Vanjula G. Rajan Joint Director (G.A.) 2303-5400	<b><i>G.A. Section</i></b>
Shri Pradeep Chaturvedi Joint Director (Ind) 2303-5297	<b><i>On deputation</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Shri S.K. Chhugani Joint Director (G) 2303-5257	<b><i>Estt. (General) Section (<u>all matters pertaining to leave</u>)</i></b>
Shri Pawan Kumar Joint Director (R&L) 2303-4053	<b><i>Research and Library Section; Press &amp; Media Unit</i></b>
Shri Ajay Ghosh Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-5454	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri K. Ravinder Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-5222	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri Hari Mohan Saxena Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-4080	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri K.L. Gandhi Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-4080	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri S. Sundararaman Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-5222	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri Radhe Shiam Sharma Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-4080	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri Ashok Kumar Anand Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-4080	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Smt. Nirmala Bhatt Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-4068	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Smt. Parvathy Venkitachalam Joint Director (PSS) 2303-4121 2301-2009	<b><i>Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service</i></b>
Smt. Suman Mala Thakur Joint Director (Interpretation) 2303-4618 2303-4725	<b><i>Simultaneous Interpretations Service</i></b>
Shri P.P. Kaushik Joint Director (E & T) 2303-4237	<b><i>Editorial and Translation Service</i></b>
Shri H.C.D. Sharma Joint Director (Security) 2303-4129	<b><i>Watch and Ward, Door Keeping and Sanitation Service</i></b>
Shri Tapan Roy Joint Director (Security) 2303-4646 2301-1485	<b><i>Watch and Ward, Door Keeping and Sanitation Service</i></b>
Shri Ashis Chakravarty Joint Director (Security) 2303-4085	<b><i>Watch and Ward, Door Keeping and Sanitation Service</i></b>
Shri K.S.Mani Joint Director (Security) 2303-4685 2301-1485 (Tele Fax)	<b><i>Watch and Ward, Door Keeping and Sanitation Service</i></b>
Shri Raj Kumar Verma Joint Director (Security)	<b><i>Watch and Ward, Door Keeping and Sanitation Service</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
Smt. Anita Chaugh Joint Director (PSS)	<b><i>Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service</i></b>
Shri Vimal Kumar Joint Director (Trg)	<b><i>Training Unit; Committee on Industry</i></b>
Smt. Santosh Dhingra Joint Director (MS&A)	<b><i>MS &amp; A Section</i></b>
Shri M.C. Tiwari Joint Director (Com-I) & Central Assistant Public Information Officer (C.A.P.I.O.) 23034353	<b><i>Committee Section-I (Committee on Subordinate Legislation); RTI Cell</i></b>
Shri S. Jason Joint Director (S&T) 2303-4327	<b><i>Committee on Science &amp; Technology, Environment &amp; Forests; MPLADS Committee</i></b>
Dr. Jayantimala Devi Joint Director (Interpretation) 2303-4565 2303-4572	<b><i>Simultaneous Interpretation Service</i></b>
Shri B.C. Sharma Joint Director (Q-II) 2303-5187	<b><i>Questions Branch (One Group); JPC on Wakf</i></b>
Smt. Saroj Bala Rikh Joint Director (PSS) 2303-4066 2301-8620	<b><i>Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service</i></b>
Smt. Saroj Sharma Joint Director (P&P)	<b><i>Printing and Publication Service</i></b>

<b>Name, Designation &amp; Official Telephone Nos.</b>	<b>Main responsibility</b>
2303-5364	
Smt. Manjeet Kaur Sethi Joint Director (Reporting) 2303-4775 2303-4068	<b><i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i></b>
Shri D.S. Prasanna Kumar Joint Director (LARRDIS)	<b><i>Research &amp; Library Section</i></b>
Shri Chandra Shekhar Mishra Joint Director (E&T)	<b><i>Editorial &amp; Translation Service</i></b>
Shri Birendra Kumar Joint Director (E&T)	<b><i>Editorial &amp; Translation Service</i></b>

***Do you want more information on Rajya Sabha?***

For more information readers may like to refer to the following publications:

1. Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States
2. Rajya Sabha At Work
3. Rajya Sabha Practice & Procedure Series (1-21)
4. An Introduction to Parliament of India

These publications can be purchased from the Sales Counter, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Parliament House Reception Office, New Delhi (Tel.: 23034360) and also from the Executive Officer, Sales and Archives Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Room No.002, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi-110001 (Tel.: 23034160).

Information regarding Rajya Sabha is also available on the Internet at ***<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>*** and ***<http://rajyasabha.nic.in>***





## 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, eight Indian parliamentary delegations attended international conferences/meetings in various countries during the year. During this period, a total of twenty two foreign parliamentary delegations visited India. The details of these visits are given in the Tables (Tables A & B) below:

### **A. VISITS OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS ABROAD DURING THE YEAR 2007**

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

	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES		PURPOSE OF VISIT		NAME OF RS MEMBER	NAME OF LEADER
			LS	RS				
1.	Islamabad (Pakistan)	26-28 March 2007	3	1	3 <sup>rd</sup> India and Asia Region CPA Conference		Shri Suresh Bhardwaj (BJP)	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS)
2	Nusa Dua, Bali (Indonesia)	29 April - 4 May 2007	4	2	116 <sup>th</sup> Assembly	IPU	Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla (BJP), Shri Jesudasu Seelam (INC)	Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker (LS)

	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES		PURPOSE OF VISIT	NAME OF RS MEMBER	NAME OF LEADER
			LS	RS			
3.	Tunisia	13-15 June 2007	2	1	5 <sup>th</sup> International Tourism Forum for Parliamentarians and Local Authorities	Shri Shahid Siddiqui (SP)	—
4.	Geneva (Switzerland)	8-10 Oct. 2007	4	2	117 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS), Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar (BJP)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
5.	Manila (Philippines)	28-30 Nov. 2007	4	2	1 <sup>st</sup> Global Parliamentary Meeting on HIV/AIDS	Shri Jesudasu Seelam (INC), Shri Robert Kharshiing (NCP)	Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, M.P. (LS)
6.	Geneva (Switzerland)	6-8 Dec. 2007	2	1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Seminar for Members of Parliamentary Committees on the Status of Women and other Committees dealing with Gender Equality	Smt. Pramila Bohidar (BJD)	Smt. Krishna Tirath, M.P. (LS)

## 2. GOODWILL DELEGATIONS

	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES		NAME OF RS MEMBER	NAME OF LEADER
			LS	RS		
1.	Saudi Arabia	9-13 February 2007	5	1	Shri Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, (RS)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, (LS)
2.	Vietnam	22-27 March 2007	5	2	Shri Rishang Keishing (INC), Shri Shyam Benegal (Nominated)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)

## B. VISITS OF FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO INDIA DURING THE YEAR 2007

	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES	NAME OF LEADER
1.	Romania	28-31 January 2007	3	H.E. Mr. Cristian Diaconescu, Vice-Chairman of the Romania-India Parliamentary Friendship Group. The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman, RS on 29 January 2007 at Parliament House
2.	CPA Secretariat, London (UK)	1-7 February 2007	1	H.E. Dr. William F. Shija, Secretary-General, CPA. The dignitary called on the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary - General (RS) separately on 6 February 2007 at Parliament House

	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES	NAME OF LEADER
3.	Trinidad & Tobago	22-27 February 2007	6	H.E. Mr. Barendra Sinanan, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 23 February 2007 at Vice President's House, 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi
4.	Afghanistan	22 Feb. - 3 Mar. 2007	13	H.E. Mr. Ghulam Farooq Wardak, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs of Afghanistan. The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary-General, RS separately on 28 February 2007 at Parliament House
5.	Spain	23 Feb. - 4 Mar. 2007	13	H.E. Mr. Javier Rojo, President of the Senate of the Parliament of Spain. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 27 February 2007 at Parliament House

6.	Hungary	6-11 March 2007	4	H.E. Zsolt Nemeth, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of Hungarian National Assembly. The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman, RS on 7 March 2007 at Parliament House
7.	Norway	11-17 March 2007	10	H.E. Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, President of the Storting (Parliament) of Norway. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 13 March 2007 at Parliament House
8.	Malta	12-17 March 2007	5	H.E. Dr. Jason Azzopardi, MP & Chairman, Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, House of Representative of the Parliament of Malta. The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman, RS on 12 March 2007 at Parliament House
9.	Pakistan	26-31 March 2007	12	Study visit of MPs from Pakistan sponsored by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT). Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, made a presentation to the Delegation on 27 March 2007 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi

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COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES	NAME OF LEADER
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10.	Vietnam	4 - 9 May 2007	12	H.E. Mr. Vu Mao, Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs of the National Assembly of Vietnam. The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman, RS on 7 May 2007 at Parliament House
11.	Cuba	5-13 May 2007	4	H.E. Mr. Jaime Crombet Hernandez Baquero, Vice-President of National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 8 May 2007 at Parliament House
12.	Tanzania	14-18 May 2007	3	H.E. Dr. (Ms.) Batilda S. Burian, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs of Tanzania. The Delegation called on the Chairman, RS on 18 May 2007 at Parliament House
13.	Germany	14-22 August 2007	12	H.E. Dr. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag (Parliament). The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 16 August 2007 at Parliament House
14.	Japan	21-23 August 2007	1	H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. The Dignitary addressed Members of Parliament in the Central Hall, Parliament House on 22 August 2007
15.	Commonwealth Secretariat, London (UK)	22 - 26 September 2007	5	H.E. Rt. Hon. Don Mckinnon, Secretary-General, Commonwealth. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 24 September 2007 at 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi

16.	China	24 September 2007	14	H.E. Mr. Wang Zhonghu, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People Political Consultative Committee. The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman, RS on 24 September 2007 at Parliament House
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	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES	NAME OF LEADER
17.	South Africa	24 Sept. – 3 Oct. 2007	2	Ms. Nerusha Naidoo, Secretary, Kwazulu-Natal Provincial Legislature of South Africa. The Delegation called on Acting SG, RS on 3 October 2007 at Parliament House
18.	Austria	3-7 November 2007	3	H.E. Mrs. Anna Elisabeth Haselbach, Vice-President of the Bundesrat (Upper House of Austrian Parliament). The Delegation called on the Chairman, RS on 7 November 2007 at Parliament House
19.	Algeria	18-22 November 2007	3	Mr. Fourali Hamid, Director- General, Head of the Division of Co-operation and Studies. The Delegation called on the Deputy Chairman, RS on 22 November 2007 at Parliament House
20.	Bahrain	28 Nov. -2 Dec. 2007	14	H.E. Mr. Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al Dahrani, Chairman, Council of Representatives, Kingdom of Bahrain. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 29 November 2007 at 6, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi and Deputy Chairman,

RS on 30 November 2007  
at Hotel Maurya Sheraton,  
New Delhi

21.	Czech Republic	2-6 December 2007	13	H.E. Dr. Permysl Sobotaka, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India/Chairman, RS on 5 December 2007 at Hyderabad House, New Delhi
22.	China	30 Dec. 2007 – 5 Jan. 2008	10	H.E. Mr. Jia Zhijie, Chairman of the China-India Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National People's Congress of China. Proposed call on meeting with the Deputy Chairman, RS on 31 December 2007 could not be fixed due to pre-occupation of the Deputy Chairman, RS

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### C. CONFERENCES HELD IN INDIA DURING 2007

	PLACE	DATES	CONFERENCES	NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS FROM RAJYA SABHA
1.	New Delhi	21-30 September 2007	53 <sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS) Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, MP (RS) – Voting Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, MP (RS) – Non Voting Shri B.J. Panda, MP (RS) – Non Voting Shri V.

Narayanasamy, MP  
(RS) – Observer

- |    |           |                         |   |  |
|----|-----------|-------------------------|---|--|
| 2. | New Delhi | 26-28 September<br>2007 | 44 <sup>th</sup> General<br>Meeting of the<br>Society of<br>Clerks-at-the-<br>Table in<br>Commonwealth<br>Parliaments | Shri N.C. Joshi,<br>Acting Secretary-<br>General, RS |
|----|-----------|-------------------------|---|--|
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Farewell function in honour of the former Chairman, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was organized on 7 August 2007. Seen in the picture (from left) Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Jaswant Singh, Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Shri Suresh Pachouri, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pension

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Chairman, Rajya Sabha (seated) administering oath to a newly elected Member in his Chamber, Parliament House



A delegation from Touro College, Law Center, USA who visited the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in 2007

Seminar on 'Initiatives in Government Accounting Reforms in India' was organized on 9 May 2007 in Parliament House Annexe. Seen in the picture (from left) Dr. Yogendra Narain, the then Secretary - General, Rajya Sabha, Shri P. Chidambaram, Union Finance Minister, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha and Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

4.



## New Initiatives

### *Computerization:*

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been providing computers to Members of Rajya Sabha and is upgrading and facilitating the computerization activities for Members. The Secretariat has been developing and implementing softwares/databases, in coordination with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to facilitate and provide various services to Members. The IT Section while implementing various decisions of the Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha, Computerization Coordination Committee and the Computer Procurement Committee of the Secretariat, purchased 21 desktop computers, 12 laptop computers, 26 multifunction printers, 16 UPS and 33 pen drives for Members of Rajya Sabha as per their options, and 134 desktop computers, 2 laptop computers, 84 printers, 49 UPS and 6 pen drives for the Secretariat during the year 2007.

MANTRA software, a machine-assisted translation tool for English to Hindi translation, developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for the Rajya Sabha Secretariat was launched by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 29 August 2007. The software is being successfully used for the translation of three parliamentary papers namely, List of Business, Bulletin Part-I and Papers Laid on the Table.

An Obsolescence Declaration Committee was constituted in the Secretariat which finalized the Obsolescence Declaration Policy and Guidelines for disposal of obsolete computer equipments of the Secretariat.

During the year, the following major software modules were developed/implemented in the Secretariat:

- (a) *Questions Branch:* Software module for uploading of the Questions lists in PDF format on internet.

- (b) *Personnel and Administration Sections*: Web version of the PAMS.
- (c) *Pay and Accounts Office*: PAO 2000 Software has been implemented and is being used since 1 April 2007.
- (d) *Lobby Office*: Web based software for Members' Attendance



## Parliament And The People

There are two Reception Offices located in the Parliament House Complex, one near Parliament House and the other at Parliament House Annexe. 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 Parliament House Annexe in connection with their official work. In the year 2007, these Reception Offices issued 25 interview slips and 33,969 computerized casual entry passes to the visitors of Parliament House Complex.

The requests for the Public Gallery passes, Central Hall passes, General passes, Distinguished Visitors Gallery passes, DVG (Diplomatic) Weekly passes, and the Central Hall passes for the Joint Sittings are received by the Notice Office. After due processing and approval, the Notice Office forwards these requisitions to the Centralised Pass Issue Cell (CPIC) for issuance of the Passes, Bar Coded or Radio Frequency (RF) Tags, as the case may be. The work pertaining to the issue of DVG (Diplomatic) annual passes to high rank Diplomats like Heads of Foreign Missions, Consulates, Honorary Consulates and Heads of the U.N. Organisations is looked after by the Notice Office. The names of such diplomats are sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs.

During the year, 302 General passes, 1 Library pass, 188 Central Hall passes, 91 DVG (Diplomatic) annual passes and 35 DVG (Diplomatic) weekly passes were issued. A total number of 5,140 Officials of the Ministries, 8,236 Press Correspondents, 283 Distinguished Visitors and 3,669 visitors to the Public Gallery witnessed the proceedings of Rajya Sabha. On the recommendation of Members of Parliament, 5,382 visitors were taken for show round of the Parliament House by the Watch and Ward staff. In all, the security staff regulated a flow of 67,780 persons/visitors in Parliament House Complex and Parliament House Annexe during the year.

*Verification done by Fire and Technical (F&T) Wing:*

The F&T Wing of the Watch and Ward Service is responsible for verifying the character/antecedents of the individuals who intend to visit the Parliament House Complex. A total number of 2,536 verifications were done during the year, which include 212 journalists, 2,214 visitors (same day) of the Public Gallery (PG) and Distinguished Visitors Gallery (DVG), 44 casual labourers and 66 PSs/PAs of the Members of Parliament.

*HRD Initiative:*

For further strengthening the security management emphasis is being laid on training and grooming of manpower in the Watch and Ward Service. During the year 2007, several new initiatives were taken up to enhance the skill and develop the personality of the security personnel. In this direction, a Life Saving First Aid Workshop, a yoga training course and three MP Familiarisation courses were conducted. Specialized Security Training Inputs were also provided to the personnel in order to enhance their operational and functional efficiency. "In-House Attachment Training Programme" was another new initiative, which was taken up with a view to get security staff acquainted with the functioning of various Technical Units of the Parliament Security. A booklet, namely 'Glimpses of Parliament of India' was prepared by the Training & Planning Wing for updating the knowledge of Watch & Ward personnel. The booklet was released by the then Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha Dr. Yogendra Narain on 14 September 2007. This booklet seeks to provide the basic and essential information pertaining to the functioning of the National Legislature. Besides, it also provides glimpses of the Parliament Building, the Central Hall, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Chambers, Parliament House Annexe and Parliament Library Building.



## Committees – Mini Legislatures

**P**arliamentary work is transacted not in the House alone, a great deal of it is done in the Committees as well. Parliamentary Committees are, in fact, mini legislatures. There are at present 12 Standing Committees, members of which are nominated by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. With a view to streamline the committee system and to make the parliamentary scrutiny of the executive wider and effective, the number of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees was increased from 17 to 24 in July 2004, out of which 8 function under the control and direction of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and 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 Rajya Sabha and 21 members are from Lok Sabha .

During the year 2007, out of the total of 99 reports presented by the Committees of Rajya Sabha including the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees, 83 were presented by the eight Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees which are serviced by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The details of the reports presented by the Committees are given in the Table below:

### Table

#### **Reports presented by the Committees of Rajya Sabha during the year 2007**

#### ***No of Reports***

#### ***Subjects***

#### ***Committee on Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Total: 6)***

167<sup>th</sup>

Report on certain Rules and Regulations examined by the Committee.

- (i) The Counting of Past Services –  
Implementation of One Hundred and  
Seventeenth Report of the Committee on

## Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha

- (ii) The Cost Accounting Records (Electricity Industry) Rules, 2001 – Implementation of One Hundred and Fifty-ninth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha
- (iii) The Custom House (Agents Licensing) Regulations, 2004
- (iv) The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 – Implementation of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha
- (v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Procedure for Holding Enquiry by Enquiry Officer and Imposing Penalty) Regulations, 2002
- (vi) The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 –Implementation of One Hundred and Forty-fourth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha

168<sup>th</sup> Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha (209<sup>th</sup> Session)

169<sup>th</sup> Report on certain Rules and Regulations examined by the Committee:

- (i) The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
- (ii) The Delhi Advocates' Welfare Fund Rules, 2001
- (iii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Conditions of Services of Officers and Other Employees) Regulations, 2000





130<sup>th</sup> Petition praying for enhancement of pension to veteran and renowned artists living in indigent condition

***Committee on Government Assurances  
(Total: 1)***

61<sup>st</sup> Report on implementation of assurances laid during the 209<sup>th</sup>, 210<sup>th</sup> and 211<sup>th</sup> Sessions/requests for dropping and extension of time, study visits of the Committee, etc

***Committee on Papers Laid on the Table  
(Total: 4)***

106<sup>th</sup> Government Notifications/ Orders and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Government Companies/Organisations laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the 208<sup>th</sup> Session

107<sup>th</sup> (i) Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior;

(ii) National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi; and

(iii) V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida

108<sup>th</sup> (i) Auroville Foundation, Auroville, Tamil Nadu;

(ii) Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore;

(iii) AIDS Prevention And Control (APAC) Project, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai;

(iv) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore; and

(v) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

109<sup>th</sup> Government Notifications/ Orders and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Government Companies/Organisations laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the 209<sup>th</sup> Session.

***Committee on Rules***

NIL

***Committee of Privileges  
(Total: 4)***

48<sup>th</sup> Matter of breach of privilege regarding reported assault by the Police on Shri Munavvar Hasan, the then Member, Rajya Sabha in Muzaffarnagar (U.P.) and Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, M.P. in Ranchi

49<sup>th</sup> Matter of breach of privilege against Pravin Bhai Togadiya, General - Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)

50<sup>th</sup> Matter of breach of privilege arising out of the telecast of a sting operation in a programme 'Operation Chakravyuh' by the Star News Channel

51<sup>st</sup> Alleged derogatory remarks against Members of Parliament by India's Ambassador in USA, Shri Ronen Sen as reported in the Asian Age newspaper

***House Committee***

NIL

***Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)***

NIL

***Committee on Ethics***

NIL

***Department-related Parliamentary Standing***

**Committee on Commerce  
(Total: 3)**

81 <sup>st</sup> to 82 <sup>nd</sup> 83 <sup>rd</sup>	Demands for Grants (2007-08)  Functioning of SEZs
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**Department-related Parliamentary Standing  
Committee on Home Affairs  
(Total:6)**

123 <sup>rd</sup>	Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2006
124 <sup>th</sup> to 125 <sup>th</sup>	Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2006-07)
126 <sup>th</sup> to 127 <sup>th</sup>	Demands for Grants (2007-08)
128 <sup>th</sup>	The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2006

**Department-related Parliamentary Standing  
Committee on Human Resource Development  
(Total: 19)**

187 <sup>th</sup> to 190 <sup>th</sup>	Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2006-07)
191 <sup>st</sup>	Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Services Scheme in Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States
192 <sup>nd</sup> to 195 <sup>th</sup> 196 <sup>th</sup>	Demands for Grants (2007-08)  Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred and Seventy-second Report on University and Higher Education
197 <sup>th</sup>	Action Taken Report on recommendation/observations contained in the One Hundred and Eighty-third Report

on major issues concerning Kendriya Vidyalayas

198<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred and Eighty-fourth Report on major issues concerning Navodaya Vidyalayas

199<sup>th</sup> The North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong

200<sup>th</sup> The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007

201<sup>st</sup> to 204<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants ( 2007-08)

205<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred and Ninety-first Report on implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Services Scheme in Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States

**Department-related Committee (Total: 10) Parliamentary on Standing Industry**

194<sup>th</sup> to 197<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07)

198<sup>th</sup> Professionalisation of boards of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)

199<sup>th</sup> to 202<sup>nd</sup> Demands for Grants ( 2007-08)

203<sup>rd</sup> Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill, 2007

**Department-related Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests (Total: 14) Parliamentary Standing**

170<sup>th</sup> to Demands for Grants (2007-08)

176<sup>th</sup> to 177<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Sixty-second Report of the Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals

Research Programme including Herbal Medicines

178<sup>th</sup> to 183<sup>rd</sup> Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2007-08)

***Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture (Total: 18)***

109<sup>th</sup> The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2006

110<sup>th</sup> The Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2006

111<sup>th</sup> to 115<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants(2006-07)

116<sup>th</sup> to 120<sup>th</sup> Demands for Grants (2007-08)

121<sup>st</sup> The National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra Stretch of Rivers Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dharma Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006

122<sup>nd</sup> The National Waterway (Kakinada-Pondicherry Stretch of Canals and the Kaluvelly Tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry Stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada Stretch of River Krishna) Bill, 2006

123<sup>rd</sup> The Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2007

124<sup>th</sup> The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2007

125<sup>th</sup> to 126<sup>th</sup> Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2007-08)

***Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice (Total:6)***

18<sup>th</sup> Electoral Reforms (Disqualification of persons from contesting elections on framing of charges against them for certain offences)

19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup>	Demands for Grants (2007-08)
	The Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006
22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Gram Nyayalaya Bill, 2007
23 <sup>rd</sup>	The Government's Policy of Appointment on Compassion Ground

***Department-related Parliamentary Standing  
Committee on Health and Family Welfare  
(Total: 7)***

20 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup>	Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2006-07)
22 <sup>nd</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Demands for Grants (2007-08)
24 <sup>th</sup>	The Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2007
25 <sup>th</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup>	Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2007-08)



## House At Work

**D**uring the year 2007, the Rajya Sabha sat for 65 days-31 days during the 210<sup>th</sup> Session, 17 days each during the 211<sup>th</sup> Session and the 212<sup>th</sup> Session. The 210<sup>th</sup> Session (Budget Session) was the longest, from 23 February to 17 May 2007, with a break from 22 March to 25 April 2007 with a view to enabling the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments. The sittings of the House were originally fixed from 25 February to 17 March 2007 and 18 April to 22 May 2007. The second part of the Budget Session was re-scheduled due to State Assembly Elections in Uttar Pradesh. As per the revised schedule, the sittings during the second part of the Session were held from 26 April to 17 May 2007. During the year 2007, the House sat for 216 hours and 55 minutes. The House sat longer than the normal 5 hours on 21 days and without lunch break on 7 days.

Summons for the 210<sup>th</sup> Session (Budget Session) was issued on 7 February 2007. The 210<sup>th</sup> Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 23 February 2007 and adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2007. The

2007	Date of Commencement	Date of Termination	Number of Sittings	Actual Hours of Sittings Hrs.—Mts.
210 <sup>th</sup>	23 Feb	17 May	31	88 - 36
211 <sup>th</sup>	10 Aug	10 Sept	17	43 - 48
212 <sup>th</sup>	15 Nov	7 Dec	17	84 - 31

President addressed Members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall on 23

February 2007. Summons for the 211<sup>th</sup> Session was issued on 27 July 2007. The 211<sup>th</sup> Session that commenced on 10 August 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 10 September 2007. Summons for the 212<sup>th</sup> Session was issued on 5 November 2007. The 212<sup>th</sup> Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 15 November 2007 and adjourned *sine die* on 7 December 2007.

During the year under review, 201 Lists of Business were issued with regard to the business of the House. In all, 4668 papers were laid on the Table of the House. During the year, only one division was held.

The average attendance of members during the 210<sup>th</sup> Session was 158. It was 170 and 152 during the 211<sup>th</sup> and the 212<sup>th</sup> Sessions respectively. The highest attendance on a day during the 210<sup>th</sup> Session was 172. It was 212 and 176 during the 211<sup>th</sup> and the 212<sup>th</sup> Sessions, 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, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil and Urdu. The facility of simultaneous interpretation is also provided on request for conferences, seminars and meetings of Consultative Committees of different Ministries.

#### *Question Hour:*

The first hour of every sitting is generally 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 year 2007, a total of 25,274 notices of questions, both starred and unstarred, were received, of which 11,086 were admitted. Out of these, 1339 questions were listed as starred questions and of these 139 questions, constituting around 10.38 per cent, were taken up for oral answer in the House. During the year, Question Hour was dispensed with on four occasions, *i.e.* on 4 May 2007, 10, 13 and 29 August 2007.

During the year, five statements were made/ laid by the Ministers correcting replies given by them to the questions, starred and unstarred, in the Rajya Sabha. For Short Notice Questions, eighteen notices were received and none was admitted. Besides, thirty-one notices for Half-An-hour Discussion arising out of the answers given to starred/unstarred questions were received, out of which two were admitted and discussed on the floor of the House.



## Legislation:

During the 210<sup>th</sup>, 211<sup>th</sup> and 212<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Rajya Sabha, out of a total of 65 sittings held, the House transacted Government business on 32 days and Private Members' legislative business on 6 days. Thirteen (13) Government Bills were introduced during the year and all the thirteen Bills were referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees for examination and report. Sixty-six (66) Private Members' Bills were introduced in the Rajya Sabha and 3 Private Members' Bills were considered, out of which 2 Bills were negatived and one Bill remained part discussed.

The Sessions held during the year 2007 witnessed significant legislative developments. (i)

*The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2007:* Based on the recommendations of the High Power Review Committee set up in 1996 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and after consultation with the State Governments, the Central Government decided to convert the seventeen Regional Engineering Colleges set up in early sixties for providing required technical manpower for industrial projects and functioning as societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860

### The following are some of the statistics relating to Bills which came up before Rajya Sabha during the year 2007:

Number of sittings during which the Government Bills were introduced,	32
Number of sittings during which the Private Members' Bills were introduced or considered	06
Number of Government Bills introduced	13
Number of Private Members' Bills introduced	66
Number of Government Bills withdrawn/fallen through during the year	02
Number of Government Bills negatived	00
Number of Private Members' Bills withdrawn	00
Number of Private Members' Bills negatived	02
Number of Government Bills transmitted by Lok Sabha	36
Number of Government Bills transmitted by Rajya Sabha	10
Number of Government Bills introduced in Rajya Sabha and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	13
Number of Bills referred to the Select Committees of Rajya Sabha	00
Number of Bills referred to the Joint Committees of the Houses of Parliament	00
Number of Government Bills considered	46
Number of Government Bills passed/returned	46
Number of Government Bills pending at the commencement of the year	38
Number of Government Bills pending at the end of the year	39
Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the commencement of the year	154
Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the end of the year	218
Number of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President	56#
Number of Bills on which assent of the President was obtained by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat	26

# Including 10 Bills passed during 2006.

affiliated to respective State Universities into National Institutes of Technology with the status of Deemed University and provide hundred per cent assistance from the Central Government for the year, 2003-04 onwards. Later, Bihar College of Engineering, Patna, Raipur Engineering College, Raipur and Tripura Engineering College, Agartala were also converted and notified as the National Institutes of Technology and as such, now there are twenty National Institutes of Technology to be empowered through an enactment of the Parliament for awarding degrees. The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2007 sought to declare all these twenty Institutions as Institutes of national importance; retain the individuality of the Institutes; make provisions for co-ordination and regulation of the affairs of these Institutes; and empower these Institutes to grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in March 2007 and by the Lok Sabha in May 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 5 June 2007 and became Act No. 29 of 2007.

(ii) *The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007*: The opening up of the Indian economy, removal of controls and consequent economic liberalization and other economic developments required that the Indian economy be enabled to allow competition in the market from within the country and outside. Keeping this in view, the Competition Act, 2002 was enacted to provide for the establishment of a Competition Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets in India. Though the Competition Commission of India was established on 14 October 2003, it could not be made functional due to filing of a writ petition before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, while disposing it on 20 January 2005, held that if an expert body is to be created by the Union Government, it might be appropriate for the Government to consider the creation of two separate bodies, one with expertise for advisory and regulatory functions and the other for adjudicatory functions based on the doctrine of separation of powers recognised by the Constitution.

In view of the suggestions of the Apex Court, the Government brought the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which, *inter alia*, provides for:-

- a) making the Commission an expert body which would function as a market regulator for preventing and regulating anti-competitive practices in the country and also have advisory and advocacy functions in its role as a regulator;
- b) establishment of the Competition Appellate Tribunal, a three member *quasi judicial* body headed by a person who is or has been a

Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Commission;

c) adjudication by the Competition Appellate Tribunal of claims on compensation and passing of orders for the recovery of compensation from any enterprise for any loss or damage suffered as a result of any contravention of the provisions of the Act;

d) implementation of the orders of the Competition Appellate Tribunal as a decree of a civil court and for imposition of a penalty by the Commission for contravention of its orders and in certain cases of continued contravention a penalty which may extend to rupees twenty-five crores or imprisonment which may extend to three years or with both as the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi may deem fit; and

e) filing of appeal against the orders of the Competition Appellate Tribunal to the Supreme Court.

The Bill was passed by the Houses of Parliament in September, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 24 September, 2007 and became Act No. 39 of 2007.

(iii) *The Carriage by Road Bill, 2007*: The movement of goods or property is an integral part of country's economic development. The law on rights and liabilities of common carriers is contained in the Carriers Act, 1865. The main objectives of this Act were to make common carriers liable for the loss or damage to goods carried by them and also to limit the liability for loss or damage to the goods/property delivered by them to be carried. Many changes have taken place since the enactment of the said Act. These include: various modes of transport have separate enactments for regulation; a number of players and middlemen like brokers and agents have come into existence and the liability of one hundred rupees as specified in the existing Act has become grossly inadequate and irrelevant. Keeping in view the changed scenario, the Carriage By Road Bill, 2007 provided, *inter-alia*, for repealing the Carriers Act, 1865, and for regulating and limiting liability of common carriers, ensuring proper statistical reporting in the transport sector by persons involved in transportation business and regulating carriage of hazardous and dangerous goods by common carriers. The Bill was passed by the Houses of Parliament in September, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 29 September 2007 and became Act No. 41 of 2007.

(iv) *The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2007*: On the basis of representations from trade unions, individuals and various associations, the Government brought the Payment of Bonus

(Amendment) Bill 2007 to fulfill a long felt need of extending the Bonus to any person employed on salary or wages upto Rs. 10000/- per month by amending the definition of "employee". The Bill also provided for raising the ceiling of Bonus from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- and bringing the employees employed through contractors on building operations within the ambit of the Act. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in November, 2007 and by the Rajya Sabha in December, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 12 December 2007 and became Act No. 45 of 2007.

(v) *The Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2007*: In our country, a host of payment and settlement systems are in operation ranging from manual paper based clearing to the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System for facilitating non-cash mode of payments, which serve as a backbone of our financial system. Although the procedure of netting (arriving at the multilateral net settlement) has been adopted as a working procedure by the members of the clearing houses, it is not legally recognized. The Bill, *inter-alia*, sought to empower the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as the designated authority to regulate and oversee various payment and settlement systems in the country for their smooth operations; to give legal recognition to the netting procedure and settlement finality; and to empower the Securities Appellate Tribunals to settle disputes between the RBI and the system providers. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in November, 2007 and by the Rajya Sabha in December, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 20 December 2007 and became Act No. 51 of 2007.

(vi) *The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007*: The access to educational facilities for the vast tribal population in the country is very limited and the tribal youth is at disadvantage in higher studies, leading to quite a low educational and economic status of tribal communities. There is high concentration of tribal population in the North-Eastern States, and in the area comprising parts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat. While North-Eastern States have a good number of Central Universities, there is no Central University specifically catering to the population in the other tribal concentrated area. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007 proposed to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University at Amarkantak in the State of Madhya Pradesh, to facilitate and promote avenues of higher education and research facilities, particularly for the tribal population in the country. The Bill was passed by the Houses of Parliament in December, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 20 December 2007 and became Act No. 52 of 2007.

(vii) *The Sashastra Seema Bal Bill, 2007*: The Special Service Bureau (SSB) raised in 1963 under the Cabinet Secretariat in the backdrop of the Chinese aggression, initially functioned in the then North East Frontier, North Assam, North Bengal, hills of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu, and later its activities were extended to other border areas including Kashmir valley. In January 2001, when the SSB was transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, it was assigned the role of border guarding force on Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders, and its name was changed to the Sashastra Seema Bal w.e.f. 27 March 2004. Considering the nature and purpose of the force and experience gained during the last four decades, the Sashstra Seema Bal Bill, 2007 sought to provide for special needs of the force and ensure standards of efficiency and discipline. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in November, 2007 and by the Lok Sabha in December, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 20 December 2007 and became Act No. 53 of 2007.

(viii) *The Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Bill, 2007*: With a view to intensifying exploration efforts in the petroleum sector for achieving 100 per cent coverage of all unexplored basins in a time bound manner, the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Bill, 2007 sought to meet the prime requirement of qualified personnel in the field of petroleum technology. The existing institutes do not have specific orientation to the requirements of the petroleum sector. The Bill sought to declare the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, as an 'Institution of National Importance', which would serve as a fountainhead for nurturing of world class technical human resources capable of serving as the leaders and innovators in the field of petroleum technology and engineering covering the entire hydrocarbon value chain. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in November, 2007 and by the Lok Sabha in December, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 20 December 2007 and became Act No. 54 of 2007.

(ix) *The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007*: The traditional norms and values of Indian society which provided for the care of the elderly, are withering as is the joint family system. As a result, many older persons particularly widowed women, are exposed to emotional neglect and lack of physical and financial support. Though they can claim maintenance under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the procedure is time consuming and expensive. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007, sought to provide senior citizens better medical facilities; need based facilities; cast an obligation on persons inheriting property to maintain such relatives and setting up of old age homes in

every district. The Bill was passed by the Houses of Parliament in December, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 29 December 2007 and became Act No. 56 of 2007.

(x) *The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007*: As per the provisions of article 341 of the Constitution of India, the list of Scheduled Castes was first notified in 1950, which has been modified from time to time. A number of requests had been received from the State Governments for modification in the list, involving inclusion of new communities, inclusion of synonymous communities, imposition of area restrictions and also modification in the existing entries. These requests were processed in accordance with the modalities approved by the Government on 15 June, 1999 as modified on 25 June, 2002. After consultation with the concerned State Governments, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, the list of the Scheduled Castes in respect of seventeen communities for States of Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and Chhattisgarh were proposed to be amended. The proposed amendments in the said Bill envisaged the inclusion of new castes based on social, educational and economic backwardness; inclusion of synonymous communities in respect of a caste in the existing list, and modifications or imposition of area restrictions in the existing entries. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in May, 2007 and by the Rajya Sabha in August, 2007. The Bill was assented to by the President on 29 August 2007 and became Act no. 31 of 2007.

In addition to the above legislative developments, various other Bills such as the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Bill, 2007, the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the National Tax Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the National Rural Employment Guarantee (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Bill, 2007, the Mizoram University (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2007, the Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2007, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2007, the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007, the Armed Forces Tribunal Bill, 2007,

etc., were also passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President during the year 2007.

*Discussion on matters of urgent public importance:*

Procedural devices like 'Special Mention', 'Calling Attention', 'Short Duration Discussion' and 'Private Member's Resolution' were utilised by members to raise matters of urgent public importance on the floor of the House. During the year, in all 406 matters of public importance were mentioned in the House through **Special Mention**. 143 **Calling Attention** notices on the matters of urgent public importance were received. However, none could be taken up in the House.

During the year, 399 notices of **Short Duration Discussion** were received, out of which notices on the following 4 matters were admitted and discussed in the House:

- (i) Flood situation in the country (14.8.2007, 23.8.2007 and 30.8.07);
- (ii) Proposal of SEZ in Nandigram and consequent large scale violence (22.11.2007 and 23.11.2007);
- (iii) Indo-US nuclear deal (4.12.2007 and 5.12.2007); and
- (iv) Situation arising out of misuse of funds provided by the Central Government under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (5.12.2007, 6.12.2007 and 7.12.2007).

*Felicitations to Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha*

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari was elected to the office of the Vice-President of India on 10 August 2007. He assumed the office of the Vice-President of India on 11 August 2007. He became the twelfth Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. On 13 August 2007, when Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari came to the Rajya Sabha to occupy the Chair of the Presiding Officer, he was accorded a hearty welcome by the Prime Minister of India and the Leader of the House, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh, the Leaders of various political parties in Rajya Sabha and some other members of the House. They referred to the remarkable achievements of Shri Ansari as a distinguished diplomat, an eminent academician and an ardent advocate of the cause of the minorities. Members expressed the hope and confidence that under the able

stewardship of Shri Ansari, the dignity and decorum of the august House would be further enhanced. Responding to the felicitations, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari urged the members to reiterate and reinvigorate the commitment to parliamentary democracy and democratic institutions and stated that in a democratic system both majority and minority play an equal part. Urging the Members for their cooperation in the smooth conduct of the business of the House, hon'ble Chairman stated metaphorically:

"The referee in a game of hockey or football does carry coloured cards in his shirt pocket. A good game, however, is one in which the need to use these cards does not arise."

He assured the Members that as the Presiding Officer, he would discharge his duties with fairness and impartiality and would make every effort to protect and defend the rights and privileges of the House. Reminding the Members of their onerous responsibilities in this era of rising expectations, Shri Ansari underlined the need "to respond to changing perceptions and requirements of the people and particularly the weaker sections of the society (who) constitute the overwhelming majority of our population". He further stated, "The challenge lies in the need to ensure equitable distribution of the fruits of development."

#### *Privilege Cases:*

During the year, 25 notices of breach of privilege and other receipts relating to matters of privileges were received and processed. Twelve meetings of the Committee of Privileges were held. The Committee presented to the House 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Reports.

Details of time taken on various matters in each of the sessions is given in the accompanying Table.

#### **TABLE** **Time taken by Rajya Sabha on various items of business during** **the** **210<sup>th</sup>, 211<sup>th</sup> and 212<sup>th</sup> Sessions**



<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Time Taken</u></b>		
	<b><u>210<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Hrs./Mts.</u></b>	<b><u>211<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Hrs./Mts.</u></b>	<b><u>212<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Hrs./Mts.</u></b>
National Anthem/Song	0-02	0-02	0-03
Oath or Affirmation	0-04	-	-
Obituary References	0-11	0-13	0-11
Questions	13-04	6-03	10-53
Short Notice Questions	-	-	-
Statements by Ministers	0-04	0-01	-
Correcting Answers to Questions			
Papers Laid on the Table	0-41	0-20	0-21
Reports/Statements of the Committees presented/laid on the Table	0-38	0-39	0-33
Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution	-	-	0-02
Presentation of Petition	-	0-02	0-01
Ruling/Reference	0-09	0-06	0-01
/Announcement by Chairman			
Information to the House	0-03	0-09	-
Retirement/Introduction of S.G.	-	0-04	0-01
Submissions by Members	-	2-22	-
Felicitations to the Chairman/Members/Sports Person	0-25	1-47	-
Leave of Absence	0-03	0-06	-
Messages from Lok Sabha/Government Bills laid on the Table	0-15	0-08	0-11
Motions for Elections/Appointments of Members to various Committees/Bodies	0-05	0-09	0-01
Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee	0-06	0-03	0-03
Statements regarding Government Business	0-06	0-06	0-03
Special Mentions	3-50	0-15	2-24
Statements by Ministers	1-51	0-42	6-20

	<b><u>210<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Hrs./Mts.</u></b>	<b><u>211<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Hrs./Mts.</u></b>	<b><u>212<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Hrs./Mts.</u></b>
Short Duration Discussions ( <i>Discussions under Rule 176</i> )	-	4-08	21-54
Discussion on the working of the Ministry	5-54	-	
Resolution/ Government Resolution	1-25	-	4-29
Statutory Resolution	-	0-02	-
Government Legislative Business	15-24	18-20	26-18
Private Members' Business		-	-
- Private Members' Resolutions	2-26	0-01	2-28
- Private Members' Bills	4-57	3-42	2-26
President's Address laid on the Table/Message	0-02	-	-
Motion of Thanks on the President's Address	13-58	-	-
Budgets laid on the Table	0-03	-	-
Supplementary Demands for Grants-laid on the Table	0-02	0-02	0-02
Budget-General Discussions	13-18	-	-
Matters raised with permission	2-49	1-36	2-43
Half-an-hour Discussion	1-29	-	-
Valedictory Remarks	0-12	-	0-09
Points raised	5-00	2-40	2-54
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>88-36</b>	<b>43-48</b>	<b>84-31</b>

## **PREFACE**

An attempt has been made in this publication to present, in nutshell, information about the work transacted by Rajya Sabha, its Committees and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2007 with a view to familiarizing readers with different aspects of the functioning of Rajya Sabha.

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

We also invite suggestions for improvement from Members and others.

New Delhi;  
June 2008

DR. V.K. AGNIHOTRI  
Secretary-General,  
Rajya Sabha.