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Secretariat

The total staff strength of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2006 stood at 1364, out of which 331 persons were holding Group 'A' posts. On attaining the age of superannuation, 17 persons retired from service in the Secretariat.

The Secretariat consists of the following main Services:

- (i) Legislative, 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) Clerks, Typists, Staff Car Drivers & Despatch Riders Service; and
- (x) Messenger Service.

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

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 and anticipation, Action Plans for the year 2006 were invited from all the Sections, which were compiled and circulated to all the Sections in order to achieve the goals/targets. In this regard, a series of review meetings chaired by the Secretary-General was also held with Joint Secretaries and Directors/Deputy Secretaries in the month of November 2006 with a view to discuss the problems, if any, being faced by them towards achieving the targets. The remarks/suggestions made by the Secretary-General during the said review meetings were communicated

to all the officers/sections of the Secretariat for their information and compliance. Apart from the above, the O & M Section also requested all the Sections of the Secretariat to include a column on maintenance of Computerized Diary System of the receipts on the Excel system of the Computer in their Annual Action Plan. A circular requesting all the Sections to prepare and furnish Annual Action Plan for the year 2007 was also issued on 27 November 2006.

The Section compiled and circulated Annual Report for the year 2005 in respect of the Secretariat giving details to a considerable extent to enable performance appraisal of the Secretariat. The Report was also put on the Internet at the website of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. A circular requesting all the Sections to prepare and furnish Annual Report-2006 was also issued on 12 December 2006.

During the year, the Section was also responsible for successful conduct of inspection of 33 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. The summary of the most important points alongwith the status on actions taken thereon by the concerned Sections was also prepared. Further, a circular for conducting inspections in 52 Sections of the Secretariat for the year 2006 was issued on 15 December 2006 wherein all the Inspecting Officers were requested to complete their inspections and forward the inspection reports latest by 31 January 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, G.A. Section, Watch & Ward Service, Committee Section (Coordination) and Reporters Branch was initiated during the year. Taking into consideration Cadre Review in the Secretariat by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, it was decided to conduct the workload assessment of the abovementioned Sections except G.A. Section and Watch & Ward Service. Assessment of workload of these two Sections for providing additional staff was under progress.

As directed by the Secretary-General, this Section also requested all the Sections to furnish details on microfilming of records with a view to explore the feasibility of mitigating the space problems in the Secretariat. Follow up action has been taken during the year and the same was under progress.

Distribution Section of the Secretariat is the nodal agency for receiving the communications and distributing parliamentary papers to the Presiding Officers, Members, Officers of the Secretariat, Ministries and Departments of the Government and others. During the year 2006, the Distribution Section received 26,800 communications. The total despatches made by Section during the year were to 5,50,242.

The Printing and Publications Service of the Secretariat handled a total 2,62,740 pages during the year 2006.

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 2006, Training Unit organized various in-house training programmes on subjects such as Office Procedure, Computer Training Programme, PAO 2000 Software for P & A O Section, Parliamentary Practice & Procedure, English Typewriting and Yoga therapy Camp. Besides, two workshops were also organised on “How to write ACR” and ‘Competence Enhancement’ for officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Officials were nominated to attend seven different training programmes organized by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) on various subjects such as Records Management for Right to Information, Introduction to Windows and Microsoft Word, Workshop on Noting and Drafting, Stress Management, Right to Information and Pay Fixation.

Besides, 6 officials were nominated to attend different training programmes conducted by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat such as the 20th Parliamentary Internship Programme in Legislative Drafting, Training Programme on Working of Questions, Legislative and Budgetary Process of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats, and Training Programme for Research, Reference and Information Service. Twenty five Officials were nominated to attend the Training Programme on Financial Management at the National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad and 20 Officials were nominated to attend the Customized Computer Training Programme at the National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi.

Staff of Watch & Ward Office attended different training programmes at Parliament Library Building, Refresher Training Programme at Training Center, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Training on Yoga at Yoga Center, Gol Dak Khana, New Delhi, Training Programme on Swimming at Talkatora Swimming Pool, New Delhi, Training Programme on Identification and handling of Explosive Course at ITBP, Mussoorie, Refresher Training Programme by CRPF at Nanded, Maharashtra, Training Programme on 10th Chemical Disaster First Responder and Incident Command Management System at Nagpur and Training Programme on Security System by ECIL, Hyderabad.

During the year 2006, six Officers from Editorial, Reporting, Interpretation & Stenographic Services represented the Rajya Sabha Secretariat at the 19th All India Official Language Conference held at Port Blair in October 2006. Four Officers were nominated to attend the 52nd Seminar and Hindi Workshop on Official Language, Dalhousie, 2006. One officer was nominated to attend the training programme at the Institute of Legislative Drafting and Research, Ministry of Law and Justice, New Delhi. Seventeen officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat were nominated to attend various training programmes abroad. Two officers were nominated to attend the training programme on Legislative Drafting at Georgetown University Law Centre, Washington DC, U.S.A.. One Deputy Director (Research & Library Service) was nominated to attend the 22nd Pre-Conference for Research and Library Services for Parliaments and 71st International Federation of

Library Association (IFLA), General Conference and Council held at Seoul (South Korea) in August 2006. One officer was nominated to attend the Annual Inter-Parliamentary Study Programme for Parliamentary staff at Canberra, Australia. Director (Media) LARRDIS was nominated to attend the 9th Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) at Wellington, New Zealand. A group of 12 officers were nominated to attend a tailor made training programme on “Parliamentary Administration” at the Royal Institute of Public Administration (RIPA), London.

The Training Unit received delegates from abroad for interaction with the officers of the Secretariat. The visiting delegations included a team of fifty members from College of Politics and Governance, King Prajadhipok's Institute, Thailand and 12 Officers from the House of Representatives of National Assembly, Thailand, and 40 students from Touro Law College, Law Center, USA.

An Orientation Programme for newly elected/nominated members of Rajya Sabha was organised for two days on 20 and 21 May 2006. An exhibition on the working of Rajya Sabha was also set up on this occasion. A total of 24 Members attended this programme. Training Unit also organised Computer Clinic for Members and their personal staff in collaboration with the National Informatics Center (NIC).

During the year 2006, Research and Library Section prepared large number of research notes/interventions on various items of agenda for use of Deputy Chairman and Secretary-General for various parliamentary conferences such as the 18th Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference held at Nairobi, Kenya in January 2006; ASGP Conference held at Nairobi, Kenya in May 2006; 43rd General Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments held in Abuja, Nigeria in September 2006; ASGP Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2006. Besides, nineteen speeches/ addresses including an inaugural speech for use of hon'ble Chairman, a welcome address for the use of hon'ble Deputy Chairman and a Vote of Thanks for use of Secretary-General at the Orientation Programme for newly elected/nominated members of Rajya Sabha held at BPST, Parliament Library Building in May 2006; an inaugural speech for use of hon'ble Chairman and Vote of Thanks for use of hon'ble Deputy Chairman at the inauguration of newly constructed Brahmaputra multi-storeyed residential complex for Rajya Sabha MPs, New Delhi in February 2006; a draft speech for use hon'ble Chairman on the occasion of farewell function in honour of retired/retiring Members of Rajya Sabha in March 2006 were prepared.

In addition, notes on Parliaments of Chile, Belgium, Walloon Regional Parliament of Belgium, Netherlands, Tajikistan, Spain, Belarus, European Parliament, Iceland, Morocco, Armenia, Namibia and Pakistan were prepared for use of the Chairman and Secretary-General. Apart from it, the Section also brought out two publications namely 'Rajya Sabha and its Secretariat: A Performance Profile 2005' and 'Felicitations, Hon'ble Chairman, Sir'.

This section also maintains a small Library for use of officers and staff of the Secretariat. During the year 2006, 84 books and journals were added to the

Library and 209 books/magazines were issued to the officers and staff of the Secretariat. Besides, 227 books were purchased and supplied to officers/sections.

Press and 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 2006, Press & Media Unit issued 3 passes to the journalists under Long and Distinguished Service category. The Unit also issued permanent Rajya Sabha Press Gallery laminated passes to the correspondents of newspapers having quota for Rajya Sabha Press Gallery for one-year duration. A total of 259 annual photo passes were issued under this category to the accredited correspondents of admitted newspapers/agencies. During the year 6 newspapers were admitted to the Rajya Sabha Press Gallery and Quota of 2 newspapers was increased. Names of 805 journalists eligible for Temporary and Sessional cards were recommended to the Centralized Pass issue Cell (CPIC) for issuance of bar coded passes. It was decided to issue Radio Frequency (RF) Tags to the journalists having permanent Rajya Sabha Press Gallery passes, *w.e.f.* January 2005. Accordingly, the names of 283 journalists were recommended to the CPIC for issuance/activation of RF Tags. Press and Media Unit also issues Sessional Parking Labels to press correspondents to enable them to have unhindered entry into the Parliament House Complex. During the year, 260 Sessional Parking Labels were issued.

Press and Media Unit has also been maintaining 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 Rajya Sabha. Parliamentary papers such as Bills, List of Business, List of Starred/Unstarred Questions, statements made by the Ministers, reports of the various Parliamentary Committees, Special Mentions, etc. are supplied/made available at the Press Counter.

The Unit also did a large amount of liaison work with the different news agencies, newspapers, correspondents of both electronic and print media for giving wide publicity to the activities and events that took place during the year. Some of these activities included Oath taking by the newly elected/re-elected/nominated Members of Rajya Sabha on 28 January, 3, 4, 12, 20 April, 7 July and 27 October, 2006; On the visit of Tajikistan Parliamentary Delegation in May, 2006 to meet Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Interaction programme with media persons organized for hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha in Parliament House in May, 2006; Orientation Programme for newly elected/nominated Members of Rajya Sabha on 20 & 21 May, 2006; 'Shardhanjali Kalas' function organized in the Deputy Chairman's chamber to commemorate the Anniversary of Kargil War on 26 July 2006; Meeting of Iceland Parliamentary delegation with the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 20 November 2006; Launching of website of the Vice-President of India on 23 November 2006; Press Conferences at Parliament House, addressed by the Chairman, Committee on Subordinate-Legislation on 28 September 2006 and by the Chairman Committee on Health & Family Welfare on 19 December 2006 and the Valedictory Remarks by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha at the end of Session.

Press and Media Unit issued press releases on oath taking ceremony of the elected/re-elected members and on reports of the Committees serviced by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to the newspapers/news agencies for wider coverage. Many English and Hindi newspapers gave good publicity to some of the significant recommendations made by the Committees in their reports. The Unit also prepared press releases both in English and Hindi on other important events, *i.e.* Orientation Programme for newly elected/re-elected members of Rajya Sabha; Inauguration of Brahmaputra Residential Complex for Members of Rajya Sabha by hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 27 February 2006; Farewell function organized in honour of retired/retiring Members of Rajya Sabha in Balayogi Auditorium on 8 March 2006; Hindi Diwas organized by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and release of the magazine titled '*Nutan Pratibimb*'; on the election of Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha as Honorary Internal Auditor of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and election of Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha as Member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP) respectively in Geneva on 18 October 2006; visit of Tajikistan Parliamentary Delegation on May 2006; meeting of Belarus Parliamentary Delegation with the Vice-President of India on 26 July 2006; Iceland Parliamentary Delegation on 26 November 2006; meeting of Moroccan Parliamentary Delegation on 27 November 2006 and circulated to newspapers/news agencies and electronic media for adequate publicity.

Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha was elected as Member of Executive Committee of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP) in Geneva in October 2006.

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 2006, the Committee dealt with a total of 25 elections and 19 nominations of members of Rajya Sabha to the various Statutory Bodies/Joint Parliamentary Committees. The Section also initiated action for the reconstitution of 10 Standing Committees and 24 Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees. The twenty-four Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees were reconstituted *w.e.f.* 5 August 2006. 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 include 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 Office 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 the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security Matters in Parliament House Complex and the Committee on Food Management in Parliament House Complex was also processed by the Section and the tenure of these two Committees was extended for one year each.

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 received during the year 2006 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 for consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Offices of Profit. The cases were thereafter, placed before the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha for his consideration/orders. During the year 2006, the requests seeking approval of the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha to the nomination of Members to several bodies were processed in the Section. These include Planning Board of NCT, Delhi; State Education Mission, Rajasthan; Rajasthan Haj Committee (Rajasthan); Expert Committee for Planned Development of Bruhat-Bangalore Mahanagarapalke, Bangalore; State Level Planning Board, Government of Himachal Pradesh; Securities Trading Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai; Space Commission; Board of Governors, NITIE, Mumbai; and Honorary Advisor in the DOS/ISRO.

In addition, the Section compiled, published and distributed to the members the publication titled "Rajya Sabha Committees-A Profile (2005)". It also compiled "Rajya Sabha Committee Membership 2006" and "Committees of Rajya Sabha and other Parliamentary Committees and Bodies on which Rajya Sabha is represented (2006-2007)" and sent these for printing. A total of 209 Reports/Statements of various Committees received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat were also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha.

A new section, namely, English Debate Section was created with effect from 24 August 2006 to act as the nodal section for the translation of Hindi portions of debates into English. The mandate of the English Debate Section includes preparation and editing of English version of the Rajya Sabha Debates which include English translation of speeches delivered in Hindi, speeches delivered originally in English and speeches delivered in regional languages and translated into English; preparation and editing of indices to the English version of Debates and; any other miscellaneous work related to English version of Debates.

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

(As on 3.05.2007)

Main responsibilities of the officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
Dr. Yogendra Narain Secretary-General 2303-4695	<i>Parliamentary Adviser to the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha and through him to the House.</i>
2301-7355	
2301-8676	<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>
2379-2940 (Fax)	
Shri N.C. Joshi Additional Secretary 23034604 2301-1328 (Telefax)	<i>Printing & Publications Service; Table Office; Notice Office; Lobby Office; Legislative Section; Bill Office; Watch & Ward Office; Files relating to policy matters of all Standing Committees and Department-related Committees except House Committee; Any other work assigned</i>
Shri R.K. Singh OSD(S) 2303-4206 2301-2592 2301-5585 (Fax)	<i>O & M Section; Press & Media; MPLADS Committee; Distribution Branch; Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests; General supervision of the Verbatim Reporting Service; Personnel Section; Estt. (General) Section; Committee Section-IV (Committee on Papers Laid on the Table); Any other work assigned</i>
Smt. Vandana Garg Joint Secretary (G)	<i>Questions Branch; Committee on Human Resource Development; Welfare Unit; Committee on Health & Family Welfare; Committee Section-I (Committee on Subordinate Legislation); Any other work assigned</i>

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
2303-4212	
2379-3412	
2301-8708 (Fax)	
Shri Tapan Chatterjee Joint Secretary (C)	<i>Committee on Home Affairs; Committee on Ethics; Conference & Protocol Section; Committee Section-II (Committee on Petitions); Any other work assigned</i>
2303-4530	
2301-0718	
2301-2007 (Fax)	
Shri Ravi Kant Chopra Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor (JS & FA)	<i>Pay & Accounts Office; Estt. (Accounts) & 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; Computer Cell & Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha; Committee on Commerce; Sales and Archives Section; Any other work assigned</i>
2303-4204	
2301-4948 (Telefax)	
Shri Sham Sher Singh Joint Secretary (S)	<i>Committee on Industry; Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice; Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture; Committee Section-III (Committee on Government Assurances); MS & A Section; JPC on Wakf Boards; Any other work assigned</i>
2303-4057	
2379-4328 Shri S.K.Kathuria Joint Secretary (K)	<i>Editorial and Translation Service; Simultaneous Interpretation Service; Any other work assigned</i>
2303-4239	
2301-2522 (Tele-fax)	
Shri G.C. Miglani Joint Secretary (M)	<i>Committee Co-ordination Section; G.A. Section; Store Section; Any other work assigned</i>

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
2303-4557	
2301-2550	
Smt. Agnes Momin George Director (P)	<i>Personnel Section; Estt. (General) Section; Committee Section-IV (Committee on Papers Laid on the Table)</i>
2303-4240	
2301-1805	
Shri N. K. Singh Director (Ptg./HRD)	<i>Administrative work relating to Printing & Publications Service; Committee on Human Resource Development</i>
2303-4733	
2379-3377	
Shri Gobind Lal Principal Chief Parliamentary Reporter	<i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i>
2303-4137	
2379-3419	
Shri S.K. Watts Director (Comm.)	<i>Committee on Commerce; Questions Branch (One Group)</i>
23034262	
23013158	
Shri S.K. Ganguli Director (T)	<i>Table Office, Notice Office, Lobby Office, Committee Section-III (Committee on Government Assurances)</i>
2303-4668	

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
2301-2083	
Shri Deepak Goyal Director (Q) & Central Public Information Officer	<i>Committee Section-I (Committee on Subordinate Legislation); Questions Branch (One Group)</i>
23034201	
23016014	
Ms. Bharti Tiwari Director (Media)	<i>Press & Media</i>
2303-4532	
2301-4850 (Tele-fax)	
Shri Sanjay Singh Director (Security)	<i>Watch & Ward, Door Keeping & Sanitation Service</i>
2303-5054	
23035215	
2301-1218 (Fax)	
Shri L.B.Shinde Principal Chief Parliamentary Interpreter	<i>Simultaneous Interpretation Service</i>
2303-4456 2301-3927	
Shri P.P.K. Ramacharyulu Director (Home)	<i>Committee on Home Affairs; JPC on Wakf; Committee Section-II (Committee on Petitions)</i>
23034256	

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
Shri S. D. Nautiyal Director (R&L) 23034216	<i>Research and Library Section</i>
Shri Mukul Pande Director (L) 2303-4693	<i>Bill Office; Legislative Section; Computer Cell and Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha</i>
Smt. Kamlesh Verma Chief Principal Private Secretary 2303-4124 2301-1973	<i>Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service</i>
Shri Ajit Singh Joint Director (Security)-CPIC 2303-4780 2301-7827	<i>Watch & Ward, Door Keeping & Sanitation Service</i>
Shri A.K. Singh Deputy Secretary (M.A.) 2303-4543	<i>M.A. Section; Committee on Industry</i>
Shri A.K. Chatterjee Deputy Secretary (MS&A) 2303-4597	<i>M.S. & A Section; Questions Branch (One Group)</i>
Shri R.C. Virwani	<i>Verbatim Reporting Service</i>

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
Chief Parliamentary Reporter	
2303-4275	
Shri Sarjit Singh Lakra	<i>Watch & Ward, Door Keeping & sanitation Service</i>
Joint Director (Security) - PH	
2303-5077	
2301-1370 (Tele-fax)	
Shri N.S.Walia	<i>Conference & Protocol Section; Questions Branch (One Group); Committee on Ethics</i>
Deputy Secretary (C&P)	
2303-4187	
Smt. Usha Sharma	<i>Editorial & Translation Service</i>
Chief Editor	
2303-4558	
Shri Raghab P.Dash	<i>Assigned work in the Office of Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha</i>
Joint Director (R&L)	
2301-6422	
23018210	
Shri H.C. Sethi	<i>Committee on Health & Family Welfare; G.A. Section</i>
Deputy Secretary (H&F)	
2303-4014	
Shri R.N. Bhatnagar	<i>Watch & Ward, Door Keeping & Sanitation Service</i>
Joint Director (Security)- PHA	

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
2303-5077	
Smt. Usha Dhingra	<i>Private Secretaries & Stenographic Service</i>
Senior Principal Private Secretary	
23034123	
23011991 (Tele-fax)	
Shri R.B. Gupta	<i>Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice; welfare unit; Stores Section; Committee Co-ordination Section</i>
Deputy Secretary (P&L) & Welfare Officer	
23034056	
Shri D.P. Ahuja	<i>Sales & Archives Section; Questions Branch (One Group)</i>
Deputy Secretary (S&A)	
23034163	
Choudhury Ramakanta Das	<i>Simultaneous Interpretation Service</i>
Chief Parliamentary Interpreter	
23034191	
Shri B.K. Pant	<i>Private Secretaries & Stenographic Service</i>
Senior Principal Private Secretary	
23034127	
23012006	

Name, Designation & Official Telephone Nos.	Main responsibility
Kum. L. Lakshmi Joint Director (R&L) 23034055	<i>Research & Library Section</i>
Shri J.G. Negi Deputy Secretary (E) 23034261	<i>Estt. (Accounts) & Budget Section; Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture; Training Unit</i>
Shri C.B.Rai, Deputy Secretary (D)	<i>O& M Section; Distribution Branch; Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests; MPLADS Committee</i>

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. Parliament of India: An Introduction

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, 9 Indian parliamentary delegations attended international conferences/meetings in various countries during the year. During this period, a total of 13 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 2006

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.	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	28 March - 3 April 2006	3	1	Fourth Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians	Dr. K. Malaisamy (AIADMK)	Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker (LS)
2	London & Isle of Man (U.K.)	1-7 May 2006	-	1	Interview for the post of Secretary-General of CPA in London and Mid-Year Meeting of the CPA Executive Committee at Isle of Man	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS)	-

3.	Nairobi (Kenya)	7-12 May 2006	5	2	114 th IPU Conference	Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla (BJP), Shri Jesudasu Seelam (INC)	Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker (LS)
4.	Helsinki (Finland)	31 May – 5 June 2006	1	1	100 th Anniversary Celebrations of Finnish Parliamentary Reform	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
5.	Sophia (Bulgaria)	19-20 June 2006	1	1	Second Conference of Women Parliamentarians	Ms. Pramila Bohidar (BJD)	Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, M.P. (LS)
6.	Abuja (Nigeria)	1-10 September 2006	5	3	52 nd CPA Conference	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS), Shri S.S.Ahluwalia (BJP), Shri Nand Kishore Yadav (SP)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
7.	Geneva (Switzerland)	16-19 October 2006	5	2	115 th IPU Conference	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS), Shri Surendra Lath (BJP)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
8.	Geneva (Switzerland)	1-2 December 2006	2	1	Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO	Shri Arun Jaitley (BJP)	Shri Rupchand Pal, M.P. (LS)
9.	Geneva (Switzerland)	4-6 December 2006	2	1	“The Seminar entitled: The Role of Parliamentary Committees in mainstreaming gender and promoting the status of women.”	Miss Anusuiya Uikey (BJP)	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.	Germany	26-30 June 2006	6	2	Shri Kalraj Mishra (BJP), Shri Santosh Bagrodia (INC)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
2.	China	3-8 July 2006	5	2	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS), Shri Mangani Lal Mandal, (RJD)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
3.	Greece	25-28 Sept. 2006	5	2	Shri Raashid Alvi (INC), Dr. K. Kasturirangan (Nominated)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)

B. Visits of Foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India during the year 2006

	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT		NO. OF DELEGATES	NAME OF LEADER
1.	Thailand	1-11 February 2006		7	H.E. Mr. Kraisa Choonhavan, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Parliament of Thailand
2.	Chile	18-27 February 2006		2	H.E. Mr. Jaime Gazmuri, Vice President of Chilean Senate.
3.	Belgium	25 February - 6 March 2006		11	H.E. Mr. Jose Happart, M.P. and President of the Walloon Regional Parliament of Belgium
4.	Netherlands	19-24 March 2006		7	H.E. Mr. Frans Weisglas, President of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Netherlands
5.	Tajikistan	12 - 20 May 2006		12	H.E. Mr. S. Khairulloev, Chairman, Majilisi Namayandagon (House of Representatives) of Majilisi Oli (Parliament) of Tajikistan

6.	Belarus	25-30 July 2006	11	H.E. Mr. Gennady Novitsky Vassilievich, Chairman of the Republic of Belarus National Assembly Council of the Republic of the 3 rd Convocation
7.	European Parliament	30 September - 6 October 2006	6	H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, President of the European Parliament
8.	Iceland	18-24 November 2006	7	H.E. Ms. Solveig Petursdottir, President of Althingi (Parliament) of Iceland
9.	Morocco	27 November - 1 December 2006	12	H.E. Mr. Abdelwahed Radi, President of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco
10.	Armenia	13 - 17 December 2006	14	H.E. Mr. Tigran Torosyan, President of the National Assembly of Armenia
11.	Namibia	10 - 16 December 2006	9	H.E. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia
12.	Spain	12-16 December 2006	10	H.E. Mr. Josep Antoni Duran I Lleidia, President of the Commission of Foreign Affairs of the Congress, Kingdom of Spain
13.	Pakistan	13-20 December 2006	6	H.E. Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan and Chairman, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Asia Region

Inauguration of the Brahmaputra Residential Complex for Rajya Sabha members on 27 February 2006. Seen in the picture (from left) Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha lighting lamp during the farewell function organized for the retired/retiring Members of Rajya Sabha on 8 March 2006. Also seen in the picture (from left) are Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India

Orientation Programme for newly elected/nominated Members of Rajya Sabha on 20 and 21 May 2006. Seen in the picture (from left) Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and Shri N.C. Joshi, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

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 Computer Cell while implementing various decisions of the Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha, Computerisation Coordination Committee and the Computer Procurement Committee of the Secretariat, purchased 33 desktop computers, 42 laptop computers, 73 multifunction printers, 30 UPS and 75 pen drives for Members of Rajya Sabha as per their options, and 121 desktop computers, 26 printers, 97 UPS, 2 scanners and 17 units of RAM for the Secretariat during the year 2006.

With a view to providing a single vendor Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) service both for the Members and the Secretariat, the Secretariat entered into an agreement for a single vendor AMC with M/s CMS Computers Ltd.

In pursuance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for the Project on Digitization of Debates of Rajya Sabha since 1952 and publishing them on CD/DVD and Internet, the Secretariat finalized the Tender document for the Digitization Project for further action by the NIC.

The Secretariat has also prepared a comprehensive Information Technology Plan for Rajya Sabha for the period from 2007 to 2009, which will ensure that further growth and expansion of computerization in the Secretariat is both systematic and focused.

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 2006, these two Reception Offices issued 36 interview slips and 28,986 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 cards, and the Central Hall passes for the Joint Sitzings 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 issue 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 Ministry of External Affairs.

During the year, 115 General passes 2 Library passes, 387 Central Hall passes, 71 DVG (Diplomatic) annual cards and 980 DVG (Diplomatic) daily cards were issued. A total number of 8,211 Officials of the Ministries, 2,053 Press Correspondents and 9,010 visitors to the Public Gallery witnessed the proceedings of Rajya Sabha. On the recommendation of Members of Parliament, 4,236 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 68,067 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 2,984 verifications were done during the year, which include 208 journalists, 2,617 visitors (same day) of the Public Gallery (PG) and DVG, 64 casual labourers and 95 PSs/PAs of the Members of Parliament.

HRD Initiative:

A proactive approach has been initiated in the security management and an emphasis is being laid on training and grooming of manpower of the Watch and Ward Service. During the year 2006, new initiatives were taken up to enhance the overall personality of the security personnel. In this direction, two in-house refresher courses and three yoga training courses were conducted. Specialized Security Training Inputs were also provided to the personnel in order to enhance their operational and functional efficiency. “Identification of Members of Parliament through power-point presentation” was another new initiative, which was taken up with a view to helping the security staff in identifying the Members of Parliament.

2

Committees – mini legislatures

Parliamentary 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 2006, out of the total of 100 reports presented by the Committees of Rajya Sabha including Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees, 82 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 2006

No of Reports

Subjects

Committee o

Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Total: 5)

162nd

Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha
(206th Session)

163rd

Report on certain Rules and Regulations examined by the
Committee.
(i) The Kandla Port Trust (Authorisation of Pilots)

13/0

	Regulations, 1964
	(ii) The Kandla Port Employees' (Study Leave) Regulations, 1964
	(iii) The Export of Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection & Monitoring) Rules, 2000
	(iv) The Airports Authority of India (Lost Property) Regulations, 2003
	(v) The Export-Import Bank of India General Regulations, 1982
164 th	(i) The Oil Mines Regulations, 1984 – Implementation of the One Hundred and Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha
	(ii) The Rules framed under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 – Implementation of the One Hundred and Fifty-first Report of the Committee
	(iii) The Railways Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1989 –Implementation of the One Hundred and Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha
	(iv) The Railways (Opening for Public Carriage of Passengers) Rules, 2000-Implementation of the One Hundred and Forty-ninth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha
	(v) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001
165 th	Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha (207 th Session)
166 th	Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha (208 th Session)
	<i>Committee on Petitions</i> <i>(Total: 3)</i>
127 th	Action Taken Report by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred and Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Petitions on the petition praying for measures to check pollution of river Brahmani and other water bodies in

Orissa

128th Petition praying for extension of CGHS facilities to the retired/retiring employees of Employees' Provident Fund Organization

129th Petition *inter alia* praying for institutionalisation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme by converting it into a regular Department under the Ministry of Human Resource Development and regularization of services of *Anganwadi* Workers and Helpers as employees of that Department

Committee on Government Assurances (Total: 1)

60th Report on implementation of assurances laid during the 206th, 207th and 208th Sessions/requests for dropping and extension of time, study visits of the Committee, etc.

Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (Total: 6)

100th Non-laying of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), New Delhi on the Table of Rajya Sabha; and Indian Airlines Limited and Alliance Air, New Delhi

101st (i) Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi;

 (ii) Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi;

 (iii) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; and

 (iv) National Board of Examination, New Delhi

102nd (i) Indian Council of Social Science Research, New

Delhi;

- (ii) Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi;
- (iii) Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi;
- (iv) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi; and
- (v) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi

103rd Government Notifications/Orders and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Government Companies/Organizations laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the 205th Session

104th Government Notifications/Orders and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Government Companies/Organizations laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the 206th Session

105th Government Notifications/Orders and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Government Companies/Organizations laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the 207th Session

Committee on Rules (Total: 1)

11th Amendments to Rule 252 (Ringling of the division bell) and Rule 241 (Personal Explanation)

Committee of Privileges (Total: 1)

47th Attack on Shri N.K. Premachandran, M.P in Thiruvananthapuram by Kerala Police

House Committee

NIL

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

NIL

Committee on Ethics
(Total: 1)

8th Report on the conduct of some Members of Rajya Sabha as shown in a programme entitled “Operation Chakravyuh” telecast by a private channel

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce
(Total: 4)

77th to 78th Demands for Grants (2006-07)

79th Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in the Seventy-second Report on the Problems of Coffee Growers

80th Functioning of the Spices Board

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home

Affairs
(Total: 5)

118th The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2005

119th to 120th Demands for Grants (2006-07)

121st Examination of Administration of Union Territories (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry and Chandigarh)

122nd The Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development
(Total: 15)

172nd University and Higher Education

173 rd to 176 th	Demands for Grants (2006-07)
177 th	The Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages University Bill, 2006
178 th	The National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2006
179 th	The Sikkim University Bill, 2006
180 th	The Tripura University Bill, 2006
181 st	Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006
182 nd	The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2006
183 rd	Major issues concerning Kendriya Vidyalayas
184 th	Major issues concerning Navodaya Vidyalayas
185 th	Promotion of Sports in India
186 th	The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006
<i>Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry (Total: 16)</i>	
178 th	Report on Unlocking of surplus assets of CPSEs to generate resources for revival and the status of ancillary units of CPSEs: A case study of HMT Ltd.
179 th to 181 st	Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06)
182 nd	Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Sixtieth Report on tax proposals affecting the various segments of industries (Ministry of Small Scale Industries)
183 rd to 184 th	Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06)
185 th	Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Seventy-third Report on Inter-Sectoral Strategic Co-operation to Promote Small Scale Industries (Ministry of Small Scale Industries)

186 th	Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Seventy-fourth Report on Operational Effectiveness of PMRY, REGP and KVI Schemes in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra (Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries)
187 th	Action Taken Report on recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Seventy-fifth Report on key concern areas of small scale industries in select States (Ministry of Small Scale Industries)
188 th to 191 st 192 nd	Demands for Grants (2006-07) Report on the Dalmia Dadri Cement Ltd. (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Bill, 2006
193 rd	Action Taken Report on the One Hundred and Seventy-eighth Report on the Unlocking of Surplus Assets of CPSEs to generate resources for revival and the status of ancillary Units of CPSEs: A case study of HMT Ltd.
<i>Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests (Total: 17)</i>	
153 rd	Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests
154 th	Report on the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2005
155 th to 161 st	Demands for Grants (2006-07)
162 nd	Report on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme including Herbal Medicines
163 rd to 169 th	Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2006-07)
<i>Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture (Total: 17)</i>	
92 nd to 96 th	Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2005-06)

97 th	Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Ninetieth Report on the Development of Airport Sector with special emphasis on new modern airports
98 th	Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eighty-third Report on the Functioning of the Commission of Railway Safety
99 th	The Admiralty Bill, 2005
100 th	The Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2005
101 st	The Carriage By Road Bill, 2005
102 nd to 106 th	Demands for Grants (2006-07)
107 th	Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Ninety-first Report on functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India
108 th	Functioning and performance of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC)

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee of Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice (Total: 4)

14 th to 15 th	Demands for Grants (2006-07)
16 th	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2006
17 th	The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare (Total: 4)

16 th to 17 th	Demands for Grants (2006-07)
18 th	The Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacy Bill, 2005

Direction issued by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha regarding evidence of officials of Ministries/Departments and Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings/Banks, etc. before Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees

In July 2006, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha issued a direction in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 266 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States regarding 'evidence of officials of Ministries/Departments and Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings/Banks, etc. before Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees'. As per the direction, a Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, in dealing with the subjects relating to the Ministry/Department under its purview, in the normal course examines only the officials of such Ministry/Department. However, sometimes, it may become necessary for the Committee to seek the views of other Ministry/Department of the Government of India, which does not directly fall within its purview. In such cases, the representatives of such Ministry/Department could be called to appear before the Committee. However, in case Chief Executives of PSU/Bank/Organisation under such Ministry/Department are also required to be examined, orders of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha shall be obtained before such officials are asked to appear before the Committee.

Probity in public life

Committee on Ethics:

The
e
Committee on Ethics in its Eighth Report presented to Rajya Sabha on 24 February

2006 examined the conduct of two Members of Rajya Sabha, namely, Shri Isam Singh and Dr. Swami Sakshi Ji Maharaj who were shown allegedly succumbing to inducements of payment of commission for sanctioning funds for various projects/other works under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in a programme entitled "Operation Chakravayuh" telecast by a private TV channel on the 19 December, 2005. The matter was referred to the Committee by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha on 20 December, 2005 for examination and report. The Committee after considering the written and oral submissions of both the members, the oral submissions of the representatives of the Dedicated Investigative Guild (DIG) which conducted the "Operation Chakravayuh" and the Star News which telecast the programme and viewing the unedited and telecast versions of the programme recorded the following findings:

The Committee came to the conclusion that the charges of ethical misconduct and breach of the Code of Conduct by Shri Isam Singh could not be sustained as the member had neither asked for nor accepted any commission despite repeated inducements by the representatives of the investigative team. The Committee found that actions both of the investigative agency which shot the programme and the channel which broadcast the episode amounted to tarnishing the image of the member in the public eye without adequate cause and had done incalculable damage to the member's reputation. Committee, therefore, was of the view that both the agency (Dedicated Investigative Guild) and the broadcaster (Star News) might have committed breach of

privilege and contempt of the House and its members. The Committee further noted that as it did not have the mandate to examine questions of breach of privilege, it therefore, recommended that the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha may consider referring the complaint of Shri Isam Singh to the Committee of Privilege for further examination and report. However, in the case of Dr. Swami Sakshi Ji Maharaj, the Committee after detailed examination, observed that the facts and circumstances of the case leave no doubt that the member had not only committed gross misdemeanour by his conduct, he had also compromised the dignity of the House and its members and had acted in a manner which was inconsistent with the standards which the House is entitled to expect of its Members. It concluded that the conduct of the member had brought the House and its members into disrepute and had contravened the Code of Conduct for Members. The Committee, therefore, recommended the expulsion of the Member from membership of the House. After adoption of a motion by the House agreeing with the recommendation of the Committee on Ethics contained in its Eighth Report on 21 March 2006 the member was expelled from the House.

The Committee in its Eighth Report, while dealing with the cases of Shri Isam Singh and Dr. Swami Sakshi Ji Maharaj, *inter alia*, made following observations/recommendations.

The Committee expressed grave concern over the nexus between corrupt middlemen/contacts and Members of Parliament and felt duty bound to contribute in exposing this nexus so that corruption in the political arena could be effectively curbed. Though Committee sought the cooperation of the DIG and the Star News in disclosing the 'contacts', they, however, declined to share this information with the Committee. The Committee, expressed the view that by not disclosing information to it, the DIG and the Star News seem to have committed contempt of the House and accordingly recommended that the Chairman, Rajya Sabha may consider referring this aspect to the Committee of Privileges for further examination. In regard to the role of the middlemen/contacts in the case of Shri Isam Singh where the middlemen responsible for facilitating the meeting of the team with the member had been identified, the Committee reiterated about the need to proceed against them expeditiously under the law of the land or else, this evil will continue to plague our polity. While reiterating its commitment to protecting the freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in the Constitution, the Committee emphasized the need to bring about some kind of regulatory mechanism for under-cover operations which have the potential of encroaching upon the right to privacy of an individual. The Committee in this context noted that the time had perhaps come for Parliament to consider the broad question of regulating sting operations. The Committee, therefore, reiterated the urgency of enacting a suitable law for this purpose expressing at the same time the hope that the electronic media would also consider putting in place a self regulatory mechanism to ensure justice and fair play in their functioning.

1

House at work

During the year 2006, Rajya Sabha sat for 77 days – 35 days during the 207th Session, 22 days during the 208th Session and 20 days during the 209th Session. The 207th Session (Budget Session) was the longest from 16 February to 23 May 2006, with a break from 23 March to 9 May with a view to enabling the Department-related Standing Committees to examine Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments. The sittings of the House were originally fixed from 16 February to 17 March 2006 and 3 April to 28 April 2006. The sittings were rescheduled when the Session commenced. As per the revised schedule, the sittings of the House during first part of the Session were extended upto 22 March 2006. The second part of the Session was to commence on 10 May 2006 to be continued till 23 May 2006. However, the House was adjourned *sine die* on 22 March 2006. The Session was reconvened on 10 May 2006 and continued till 23 May 2006 as per earlier revised schedule. During the year 2006, the House sat for 374 hours and 45 minutes. The House sat longer than the normal 5 hours on 47 days and without lunch break on 16 days.

Summons for the 207th Session (Budget Session) was issued on 28 January 2006. The 207th Session of Rajya Sabha commenced on 16 February 2006 and adjourned *sine die* on 23 May 2006. The President addressed Members of both Houses of Parliament assembled

together in the Central Hall on 16 February 2006. Summons for the 208th Session was issued on 6 July 2006. The 208th Session that commenced on 24 July 2006 was

Session 2006	Date of Commencement	Date of Termination	Number of Sittings	Actual Hours of Sittings Hrs.—Mts.
207 th	16 Feb	23 May	35	180-56
208 th	24 July	25 Aug	22	113-41
209 th	22 Nov	19 Dec	20	80-08

adjourned *sine die* on 25 August 2006. Summons for the 209th Session was issued on 3 November 2006. The 209th Session of Rajya Sabha commenced on 22 November 2006 and adjourned *sine die* on 19 December 2006.

During the year under review, 233 Lists of Business were issued with regard to the business of the House. In all 4535 papers were laid on the Table of the House. During the year, nine divisions were held.

The average attendance of Members during the 207th Session was 144. It was 169 and 167 during the 208th and 209th Sessions respectively. The highest attendance on a day during the 207th Session was 177. It was 191 and 177 during the 208th and 209th 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 in English and Hindi. 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 2006, a total of 24,373 notices of questions, both starred and unstarred, were received, of which 11,721 were admitted. Out of these, 1399 questions were listed as starred questions and of these 252 questions, constituting around 18.01 per cent, were taken up for oral answer in the House. During the year, Question Hour was dispensed with on one occasion, *i.e.* on 18 August 2006.

During the year, seven statements were made/ laid by the Ministers correcting replies given by them to the questions, starred and unstarred, in Rajya Sabha. For short notice questions, thirty-one notices were received and two were admitted. Besides, thirty-five notices for half-an-hour discussion arising out of the answers given to starred/unstarred questions were received, out of which seven were admitted and discussed on the floor of the House.

Legislation:

During the 207th, 208th and 209th Sessions of Rajya Sabha, out of a total of 77 sittings held, the House transacted Government and Private Members' legislative business on 52 days. Twenty (20) Government Bills were introduced during the year and out of these Bills, 14 Bills were referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees for examination and report. Eighty-eight (88) Private Members' Bills were introduced in Rajya Sabha and 5 Private Members' Bills were considered, out of which 4 Bills were withdrawn by the leave of the House and one Bill remained part discussed.

The following are some of the statistics relating to Bills which came up before Rajya Sabha during the year 2006:

• Number of sittings during which the Government Bills were introduced, considered and passed in Rajya Sabha	44
• Number of sittings during which the Private Members' Bills were introduced or considered	09
• Number of Government Bills introduced	20
• Number of Private Members' Bills introduced	88
• Number of Government Bills withdrawn/fallen through during the year	03

• Number of Government Bills negatived	00	The Sessions held during the year 2006 witnessed significant legislative developments. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006: A historic development took place during the passage of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 popularly known as “The Office of Profit Bill”. The issue of disqualification of Members of Parliament holding an office of profit assumed importance in the wake of the disqualification proceedings initiated against some members on the ground that they are holding an office of profit. In view of this development, the Government brought before Parliament a Bill, namely the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 to exempt the holders of certain offices from incurring disqualification. The Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament in May 2006 and was sent to the President for assent. However, the President returned the Bill to Rajya Sabha on 30 May 2006 under article 111 of the Constitution with the message for reconsideration of the Bill by the Houses on certain aspects. In his message, the President, <i>inter alia</i> , stated that he would like the Parliament to re-consider the proposed Bill in the context of the settled interpretation of the expression ‘Office of Profit’ in article 102 of the Constitution; and the underlying Constitutional principles therein. He further stated that while reconsidering, among other things, the following may be specifically addressed:-
• Number of Private Members’ Bills withdrawn	04	
• Number of Private Members’ Bills negatived	00	
• Number of Government Bills transmitted by Lok Sabha	40	
• Number of Government Bills transmitted by Rajya Sabha	25	
• Number of Government Bills introduced in Rajya Sabha and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	14	
• 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	68#	
• Number of Government Bills passed/returned	65#	
• Number of Government Bills pending at the commencement of the year	42	
• Number of Government Bills pending at the end of the year	38	
• Number of Private Members’ Bills pending at the commencement of the year	210	
• Number of Private Members’ Bills pending at the end of the year	154	
• Number of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President	63	
• Number of Bills on which assent of the President was obtained by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat	19#	

Including the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2006; the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2006; the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2006 on which the amendments made by Lok Sabha were agreed to by Rajya Sabha during the 207th Session and Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 as passed by the Houses of Parliament and returned by the President for its reconsideration during the 207th Session.

proceedings initiated against some members on the ground that they are holding an office of profit. In view of this development, the Government brought before Parliament a Bill, namely the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 to exempt the holders of certain offices from incurring disqualification. The Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament in May 2006 and was sent to the President for assent. However, the President returned the Bill to Rajya Sabha on 30 May 2006 under article 111 of the Constitution with the message for reconsideration of the Bill by the Houses on certain aspects. In his message, the President, *inter alia*, stated that he would like the Parliament to re-consider the proposed Bill in the context of the settled interpretation of the expression ‘Office of Profit’ in article 102 of the Constitution; and the underlying Constitutional principles therein. He further stated that while reconsidering, among other things, the following may be specifically addressed:-

- (i) evolution of generic and comprehensive criteria which are just, fair and reasonable and can be applied across all States and Union territories in a clear and transparent manner;
- (ii) the implication of including for exemption the names of offices the holding of which is alleged to disqualify a member and in relation to which petitions for disqualification are already under process by the competent authority; and
- (iii) soundness and propriety of law in making the applicability of the amendment retrospectively.

The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006 was passed, again, by Parliament in July 2006. The President accorded his assent to the Bill on 18 August 2006 and became Act No. 31 of 2006. It may, however, be mentioned that to address the issues raised by the President in his message on the Bill, a Joint Committee consisting of fifteen members, ten members from Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker,

Lok Sabha and five members from Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has been constituted on 30 August 2006 to examine, among other things, the constitutional and legal position relating to the office of profit.

The Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2006: Multiplicity of food laws, standard setting and enforcement agencies pervaded different sectors of food safety and standards, which created confusion in the minds of consumers, traders, manufacturers and investors for quite some time. The Government came forward with an integrated food legislation namely, the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2006. The legislation is aimed at bringing out a single statute relating to food and to provide for systematic and scientific development of food processing industries. It proposed the establishment of a Food, Safety and Standards Authority of India, which would fix food standards and regulate/monitor the manufacturing, import, processing, distribution and sale of food, so as to ensure safe and wholesome food for the people. The legislation took into consideration international practices and envisaged an overarching policy framework and provision of single window to guide and regulate persons engaged in manufacturing, marketing, processing, handling, transportation, import and sale of food. The Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2006 was passed by Lok Sabha in July 2006 and by Rajya Sabha in August 2006. The Bill was assented to by the President on 23 August 2006 and became Act No. 34 of 2006.

The Actuaries Bill, 2006: Actuaries are the business professionals who analyse the financial consequences of risk. After opening up of insurance sector to private players and in changed economic conditions Government brought the Actuaries Bill, 2005 to regulate the profession of actuaries in India on the lines of Chartered Accountants, Cost and Works Accountants and Company Secretaries. The Bill proposed to constitute the “Institute of Actuaries of India”, which would have the responsibility for conducting examination for the profession of actuaries, regulating the profession including professional misconduct and creating necessary facilities for the growth and training of the members of the profession. The Bill also provided for an Appellate Authority, a Tribunal, a Quality Review Board, etc. for the purpose. The Actuaries Bill, 2006 was passed by the Houses of Parliament in August 2006. The Bill was assented to by the President on 27 August 2006 and became Act No. 35 of 2006.

The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006: The Bill introduced as the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005, in Lok Sabha in December 2005, was brought to reinforce and utilize the rich conservation ethos, the tribal communities have traditionally shown towards forests and environment and cautions against any form of unsustainable or destructive practices. The Bill also recognized forest rights of forest dwelling scheduled tribes, to make it legally enforceable through corrective measures in the executive machinery. It further provided for adequate safeguards to avoid any further encroachment of forest and sought to involve the democratic institutions at the grass root level in the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights. Furthermore, it addressed the long-standing needs of granting a secure and inalienable right to those communities whose right to life depends on right to forest, thereby strengthening the entire

conservation regime by giving permanent stake to the scheduled tribes dwelling in the forest for generation in symbiotic relationship with the entire eco system. The Bill was passed by the Houses of Parliament as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006 in December 2006. The Bill was assented to by the President on 29 December 2006 and became Act No. 2 of 2007.

The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006: One of the landmark legislations, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Bill, 2006 was passed by the Houses of Parliament in December 2006 to provide for the reservation in admission to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) of citizens, in certain Central Educational Institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government. The legislation gives effect to the Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Act, 2005 which empowered Parliament and State Legislatures to make appropriate laws for educational advancement of the weaker sections of the society. The Bill was assented to by the President on 3 January 2007 and became Act No. 5 of 2007.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill, 2006: Child marriage has drawn the attention of the social reformers as well as of the Government. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was enacted with a view to restraining solemnization of child marriages. The Act was amended in 1949 and 1978 in order, *inter alia*, to raise the age limit of male and female persons for the purpose of marriage. The Act does not declare child marriage to be void or invalid. There has been a demand for making the provisions of the Act more effective to eradicate and prevent the evil practice of solemnization of child marriage in the country. In this background, the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20 December 2004. The Bill intended to provide more effective mechanism to declare child marriage as voidable at the option of the contracting party to the marriage, who was a child at the time of marriage. The legislation contains *inter alia* provisions for maintenance to minor female child from her husband or from his guardian if he is a minor at the time of marriage. The Bill was passed by the Houses of Parliament as the Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill, 2006. The Bill was assented to by the President on 10 January 2007 and became Act No. 6 of 2007.

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2006: The Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament in its Report dated 22 May, 2006 had made certain recommendations regarding increase in the salary, daily allowance and the other facilities to which the Members of Parliament are entitled to, pension payable to former Members of Parliament and family pension to the spouse or dependent of the Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament after the demise of such Members of Parliament/former Members of Parliament. After considering the said Report, it had been decided to enhance the salary, daily allowance, rate of road mileage and other facilities to which the Members of Parliament are entitled to and pension to former Members of Parliament and the family pension to the spouse or dependent of Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament after the demise of such Members of Parliament/former Members of

Parliament. Accordingly the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 was further amended for giving effect to the aforesaid proposals.

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2006 was passed by the Houses of Parliament in August 2006. The Bill, *inter alia*, seeks to provide for the following, namely:-

(i) to enhance the salary of Members of Parliament from twelve thousand rupees per mensem to sixteen thousand rupees per mensem for a period of five years with effect from 14 September, 2006; (ii) to enhance the allowance payable to the Members of Parliament during any period of residence on duty from five hundred rupees for each day of duty to one thousand rupees for each day of duty for a period of five years with effect from 14 September, 2006; (iii) to enhance the rate of road mileage in respect of every journey performed in India for the purpose of attending session of a House of Parliament or a meeting of a Parliamentary Committee or for the purpose of attending to any other business connected with his duties as a Member of Parliament from eight rupees per kilometre to thirteen rupees per kilometre for a period of five years from the commencement of the legislation; (iv) to allow a physically incapacitated member of Parliament who cannot travel by air and rail to travel by road alongwith an attendant; (v) to reduce the interval between the adjournment of a House of Parliament or, one sitting of Parliamentary Committee and the reassembly of that House or the next sitting of the Committee at the same place, as the case may be, from seven days to five days; (vi) to enhance thirty-two single air journeys to which a Member of Parliament is entitled to avail in a year to thirty-four single air journeys in a year; (vii) to allow the ex-Members of Parliament from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands or the Lakshadweep to travel by the highest class of accommodation in any steamer sailing between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands or the Lakshadweep, as the case may be, and the main land territory of India without payment of any charges, on the basis of an authorisation issued for the purpose by the concerned Secretariat of Parliament; (viii) to enhance the pension of three thousand rupees per mensem available to a former Member of Parliament to eight thousand rupees per mensem and the additional pension of six hundred rupees per mensem payable to him/her for every year in excess of five years membership to eight hundred rupees per mensem; (ix) to increase the family pension payable to the spouse or dependent of a Member of Parliament dying during his term of office from one thousand five hundred rupees per mensem to four thousand rupees per mensem for life as against only for a period of five years as at present; (x) to provide the spouse or dependent of a deceased former Members of Parliament a family pension of three thousand rupees per mensem for life of such spouse or dependent till he remains as such without any claim for the arrears prior to the commencement of the legislation.

The Bill received the assent of the President on 12 September 2006 and became Act No. 40 of 2006.

In addition to the above legislative developments, various other Bills such as the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Bill, 2006, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, 2006, the National Institute of Fashion Technology Bill, 2006,

the Government Securities Bill, 2006, the Cantonment Bill, 2006, the Assam Rifles Bill, 2006, the English and Foreign Languages University Bill, 2006, the Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006, the Tripura University Bill, 2006, the Sikkim University Bill, 2006, etc. were also passed by both Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President.

Discussion on matters of urgent public importance:

Procedural devices like 'Special Mention', 'Calling Attention', 'Short Duration Discussion' and 'No-Day-Yet-Named Motion' were utilised by members to raise matters of urgent public importance on the floor of the House. During the year, in all 477 matters of public importance were mentioned in the House through **Special Mention**. Out of the 230 **Calling Attention** notices on the matters of urgent public importance received, notices on the following 3 subjects were finally admitted and taken up in the House:

- (i) Rampant female foeticide and resultant imbalance in sex ratio in the country (17.5.2006);
- (ii) Recent fire incident at Victoria Park in Meerut and remedial measures taken by the Government in regard thereto (23.5.2006); and
- (iii) Spread of Chickungunya viral fever in different parts of the country and remedial measures taken by the Government in regard thereto (23.8.2006).

During the year, 305 notices of **Short Duration Discussion** were received, out of which notices on the following 14 matters were admitted and discussed in the House:

- (i) Situation arising out of the procedure followed by the Government for restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports and taking up the modernisation work of these two airports by the Airport Authority of India (17.3.2006);
- (ii) Communal riots in Vadodara and different parts of the country (16.5.2005);
- (iii) Import of wheat and agrarian distress (18.5.2006);
- (iv) Steep rise in the prices of essential commodities in the country (22.5.2006 and 23.5.2006);
- (v) Foreign Direct Investment in retail sector (23.5.2006);
- (vi) Serious situation arising out of the rise in the prices of essential commodities during last one year causing immense hardship to the common man (25.7.2006);

- (vii) Increasing incidents of terrorist violence in the country particularly in the context of recent bomb blasts in Mumbai (26.7.2006, 27.7.2006 and 31.7.2006);
- (viii) Indo-US Nuclear Deal (17.8.2006);
- (ix) Suicides by farmers in various parts of the country and demand to increase the Minimum Support Price of foodgrains (23.8.2006 and 24.8.2006);
- (x) Report of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Enquiry regarding alleged disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose laid on the Table of the House on 17.5.2006 (24.8.2006);
- (xi) Internal security scenario in the country (27.11.2006, 28.11.2006 and 30.11.2006);
- (xii) Rise in the prices of essential commodities (5.12.2006);
- (xiii) Situation arising out of the tardy implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in some States of the Country (12.12.2006 and 15.12.2006); and
- (xiv) Recent developments in the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation (19.12.2006).

Felicitations to Hon'ble Chairman Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat on completion of four years as Chairman of Rajya Sabha

On 18 August 2006, when the House met at 11.00 a.m. for the Question Hour, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Suresh Pachouri, congratulated Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on completing four years in office and complimented him for his inspiring role as the Presiding Officer of the Rajya Sabha. Members cutting across party lines showered praise on him. Though the Hon'ble Chairman said repeatedly that the questions may be taken up during the Question Hour, there was, however, a remarkable upsurge of emotions in the House and the members went on praising the Chairman profusely throughout the Question Hour. The Chairman touched by the views expressed so intensely and spontaneously by the members, thanked them for their support and cooperation and assured them that he would continue to conduct the House in a just and fair manner. This was indeed an unprecedented occurrence in the history of Rajya Sabha when the whole of the opening hour of the House was spent on offering rich encomiums to a sitting Presiding Officer.

Felicitations to Shri K. Rahman Khan, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

On 12 May 2006, Shri K. Rahman Khan was elected unopposed as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha for the second time. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the House, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and Shri Jaswant Singh, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha offered their felicitations in the House to Shri K. Rahman Khan on his election as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

Shri K. Rahman Khan has had a long and varied experience in public life. He was the Chairman, Karnataka legislative Council from 1982 to 1984. He was Member of the Karnataka legislative Council from 1978 to 1990. He was elected to Rajya Sabha in April 1994, re-elected to April 2000 and elected again in April 2006. He was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers from May 2004 to 20 July

Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha was also elected as Honorary Internal Auditor of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its 115th Assembly held in October 2006 in Geneva.

2004 before he was elected unopposed as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha on 22 July 2004. He served as the Deputy Chairman till 2 April 2006 when his term of office expired.

Privilege Cases:

During the year, 22 notices of breach of privilege and other receipts relating to matters of privileges were received and processed. One case relating to the matter of privilege arising out of publishing of a news item casting reflections on a ruling given by the Chair in a weekly newspaper 'Jadeed Markaz' and referring to expunged proceedings of Rajya Sabha in that news item was referred to the Committee of Privileges. A petition submitted under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and 'Members of Rajya Sabha (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules 1985' in relation to a Member was also referred to the Committee of Privileges by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for making a preliminary inquiry and submitting a report to him. The Forty-Seventh Report of the Committee of Privileges relating to the alleged brutal attack on Shri N.K. Premachandran, Ex-M.P and non-intimation of his arrest/release by the concerned authorities to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha was presented to the House on 2 August 2006.

Amendments/additions to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha

The Committee on Rules presented its Eleventh Report to the House on 8 December 2006 which was adopted by the House on 12 December 2006. The Committee, *inter alia*, recommended the amendments in rule 241 relating to personal explanation by a Member and rule 252 relating to the division of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.

Now, as per the amendment made in rule 241, a member or a Minister may, with the permission of the Chairman, make a personal explanation although there is no question before the Council, but in this case no debatable matter may be brought forward,

and no debate shall arise. Thus, by amending the rule 241, it has been made more explicit by including a provision for a Minister also, who is not a

Member of the Council, to make a personal explanation in the Council. Similarly, as per the amendment made in rule 252(4) (b), after the lapse of three minutes and thirty seconds, he (Chairman) shall put the question a second time and declare whether in his opinion the “Ayes” or the “Noes” have it. By amending the aforementioned rule pertaining to the division, the duration of the ringing of the division bells has been increased from two minutes to three minutes and thirty seconds in order to facilitate the members to come to the Council’s Chamber for the purpose of voting.

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
207th, 208th and 209th Sessions

Subject	Time Taken		
	<u>207th</u> Hrs./Mts.	<u>208th</u> Hrs./Mts.	<u>209th</u> Hrs./Mts.
National Anthem/Song	00-04	00-02	00-02
Oath or Affirmation	00-21	00-05	00-02
Obituary References	00-33	00-20	00-26
Suspension of Question Hour	01-07	-	-
Questions	19-32	14-27	13-08
Short Notice Questions	00-11	-	-
Introduction of Ministers	00-04	-	00-01
Statements by Ministers Correcting Answers to Questions	00-03	00-01	00-01
Papers Laid on the Table	00-44	00-28	00-35
Reports/Statements of the Committees presented/laid on the Table	00-44	00-22	00-28
Statement regarding Ordinance	00-01	-	-
Presentation of Petition	-	-	00-01
Question of Privilege	-	00-03	-
Ruling/Reference /Announcement by Chairman	00-08	00-13	00-04
Felicitations to/by the Chairman	-	01-01	00-02
Leave of Absence	00-04	00-02	00-06
Panel of Vice- Chairmen	00-01	00-01	00-01
Resignation by Member	00-02	-	-
Messages from Lok Sabha/Government Bills laid on the Table	00-19	00-14	00-14
Motions for Elections/Appointments of Members to various	00-22	00-12	00-07

Committees/Bodies			
Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee	00-07	00-05	00-04
Statements regarding Government Business	00-10	00-04	00-04
Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance	03-17	01-20	-
Personal Explanation	-	00-33	-
Special Mentions	05-34	02-47	03-02
Statements by Ministers	03-29	03-14	01-12
Short Duration Discussions	26-42	32-14	18-26
<i>(Discussions under Rule 176)</i>			
Discussion on the working of Ministries	21-32	-	-
Resolution/Government Resolution	-	00-02	-
Statutory Resolution	00-23	-	-
Government Legislative Business	31-31	31-35	25-19
Private Members' Business			
- Private Members' Resolutions	06-46	02-27	02-29
- Private Members' Bills	07-23	04-51	05-00
President's Address laid on the Table/Message	00-02	-	-
Motion of Thanks on the President's Address	13-42	-	-
Budgets laid on the Table	00-02	-	-
Supplementary Demands for Grants-laid on the Table	00-02	00-02	00-02
Budget—General Discussions	18-51	-	-
Good wishes to the retiring Members of the House	03-03	-	-
Welcome to New Members	00-01	-	-
Elections of/Felicitation to the Deputy Chairman	00-36	-	-
Matters raised with permission	06-11	07-11	02-38
Half-an-hour Discussion	01-58	03-16	-
Valedictory Remarks	00-19	00-21	00-15
Points raised	04-55	06-08	06-19
TOTAL	180-56	113-41	80-08

PREFACE

In the Performance Profile an attempt has been made to present in nutshell, information about the work transacted by Rajya Sabha, its Committees and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2006 with a view to familiarizing readers with some aspects of the functioning of Rajya Sabha.

I hope Members of Parliament and others will find this publication interesting and useful.

Suggestions for improvement are most welcome.

New Delhi;
2007

DR. YOGENDRA NARAIN
Secretary-General,
Rajya Sabha.