

Secretariat

The total staff strength of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year 2005 stood at 1345, out of which 365 persons were holding Group 'A' posts. On attaining the age of superannuation, 11 persons retired from service in the Secretariat. However, one person in the grade of Senior Private Secretary took voluntary retirement w.e.f. 1 March 2005.

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 2005 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 were also held with Joint Secretaries and Directors/Deputy Secretaries in the month of November 2005 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 incorporated and circulated 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 Record Management and also to mention details of weeding out of old records in their Annual Action Plan. A circular requesting all the sections to prepare and furnish Annual Action Plan for the year 2006 was also issued on 28 November 2005.

The Section compiled and circulated Annual Report for the year 2004 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.

During the year, the Section was also responsible for successful conduct of inspection in 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. 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 33 Sections of the Secretariat for the year 2005 was issued on 16 December 2005 wherein all the Inspecting Officers were requested to complete their inspections and forward the inspection reports before the commencement of the Budget Session 2006. The inspection of all the Sections undertaken by the Secretary-General was also coordinated by this Section in the months of September to November 2005.

The Section has also 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 and Ward Service, and Reporters Branch was initiated during the year. As directed by the Secretary-General, the 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.

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 2005, the Distribution Section received 26850 communications. The total despatches made by Section during the year came to 4,79,601.

The Printing and Publications Service of the Secretariat handled a total 2,09,225 pages for printing.

Training Unit caters to the training need of the Members of Parliament, officers and staff of the Secretariat. Training programmes include both in-house training as well as training at outside institutions within India and training abroad. During the year 2005, in all, 158 officials of the Secretariat were imparted in-house training, 230 officials were sent for training to outside institutions within India and 15 officials were sent for overseas training.

During the year 2005, Training Unit organised six in-house training programmes on subjects like Parliamentary Procedure and Parliament Security for the Watch and Ward Service; Office Procedure, Parliamentary Procedure, Computer Training Programme, etc. One hundred and fifty eight officials attended these

programmes. Officers and staff were nominated to attend the training programme conducted by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) on various subjects like the Refresher Course, Customized Training Programme on Financial Management, Workshop on National Training Policy, Introduction to MS Excel (IMSE) and Workshop on Communication Skills, etc. Seventy officials of the Secretariat participated in the above mentioned programmes.

In seven different training programmes conducted by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST), Lok Sabha Secretariat, 22 officers/staff were nominated to attend various training programmes, viz. Training Programme for officers working in Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures, etc; Management Development Programme for Middle Level Officers of Parliament and State Legislature Secretariat; Training Programme for officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats working in Research, Reference and Information Service; Training Programme for Hindi Editors/Assistant Editors, Translators, etc; Training Programme on Working of Questions, Legislative and Budgetary Processes of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State legislature Secretariats; 20th International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting and the 21st Parliamentary Internship Programme in Legislative Drafting.

Training Unit nominates officers for the training programme sponsored by the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) and 4 officers were nominated to attend the DTS Course at HCM RIPA, Jaipur, Uttaranchal Academy of Administration (UAoA), Nainital and at YASHDA, Pune. Two officers were also nominated to attend the programme on Administrative Leadership in 21st Century conducted at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. It was decided to send two officials every month to INGAF, New Delhi for the training programme on P&AO 2000 COMPACT and 10 officials received the training in the said programme in the year 2005. Training programme on Official Language were also conducted by the Rashtriya Hindi Academy and Raj Bhasha Sansthan in the year 2005. Six officers were nominated to attend the 18th All India Official Language Conference, at Manali, Himachal Pradesh and 3 officers were sent to Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh to attend the 51st (Golden Jubilee) Seminar and Hindi Workshop of Official Language.

In the year 2005, officers were nominated to attend two different training programmes at foreign institutions and one Conference. Twelve officers were nominated to attend a customized training programme on 'Parliamentary Administration' at the Royal Institute of Public Administration (RIPA), London. Two Officers were nominated to attend the training programme on Legislative Drafting at the International Legislative Drafting Institute, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. One Joint Director (Research and Library Service) was nominated to attend the 21st Pre Conference for Library and Research Services for Parliaments and the 71st IFLA General Conference and Council held at Oslo, Norway in August 2005.

The Training Unit also received a delegation from Touro Law College, Law Centre, USA and officers from House of Representatives of National Assembly, Thailand, which had interaction with the senior officers of the Secretariat.

Besides, the training programmes conducted for officers and staff, Training Unit also organised computer training programmes in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) for the Members of Parliament and their personal staff.

To meet the specific training needs of the Watch and Ward officials, the Training Unit also facilitated the Watch and Ward Office to send fifty officials to attend the Induction Level training programme at the NISA, Hyderabad. Sixty officials were nominated to attend Swimming Course at Wellington Crescent Talkatora Swimming Pool, New Delhi and one official attended Training on Bomb Disposal at the NSG, Manesar, Haryana.

For the first time a Yoga Therapy Camp of one week duration for officers/staff of the Secretariat was conducted under the guidance of Yogarshi Swami Ananda of the Ananda Yoga Society, Lucknow. Fifty-one officers and staff of the Secretariat participated in the Camp.

Training Unit also organised an Orientation Programme on 25 and 26 October 2005, for Journalists/Reporters both from the print and electronic media who cover the proceedings of Rajya Sabha with the aim of giving a first hand information regarding practice and procedure of the House. A total of ninety -six Journalists/Reporters attended the Programme.

During the year 2005, 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 Conference of Presiding Officers/Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held at New Delhi in July 2005; 42nd General Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments held in Fiji in September 2005; the ASGP Conference held at Geneva, Switzerland in October 2005; the Conference of Presiding Officers/Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India held at Raipur (Chhattisgarh) in November 2005. Besides, eleven speeches/addresses including an inaugural speech for use of hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha at the 13th Chief Whip's Conference held at Hyderabad in February 2005, a draft inaugural speech for use of hon'ble Deputy Chairman and a valedictory speech for use of Secretary-General at the Orientation Programme for the Journalists/Reporters held in October 2005 were prepared. In addition, notes on the Parliament of France, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, UK, China, Uzbekistan and Italy were prepared for use of the Chairman and the Secretary-General. Apart from it, the Section also brought out 6 publications namely 'Who's Who Rajya Sabha 2004'; 'Role and Relevance of Rajya Sabha in Indian Polity'; 'Celebrating Rajya Sabha – The 200th Session'; '*Rajya Sabha Mein Rashtrakavi Maithilisharan Gupta*'; 'Practice and Procedure Series (21 booklets)' and 'Rajya Sabha and its Secretariat: A Performance Profile 2004'.

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, Press and Media Unit issued 8 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 269 annual photo passes were issued to the accredited correspondents of admitted newspapers/agencies and 7 newspapers were admitted to the Rajya Sabha Press Gallery. Quota of 4 newspapers was increased. In addition, names of 245 journalists eligible for Temporary and Sessional Cards were recommended to the Centralized Pass Issue Cell (CPIC) for issuance of bar coded passes. It was also 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 269 journalists were recommended to the CPIC for issuance of the RF Tags. Press and Media Unit also issues Sessional Parking Labels to the Press correspondents to enable them to have unhindered entry into the ParliamentHouseComplex. On an average, 60 Parking Labels are issued during a session.

Press and Media Unit has also been maintaining a Press Counter near the Press Gallery of Rajya Sabha. During session, parliamentary papers are provided to the correspondents of both print and electronic media covering the proceedings of Rajya Sabha. 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 18 January, 17 and 24 June, 2005; Press Conferences at Parliament House, addressed by the Chairman, Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on 29 April 2005 and 23 August 2005 after presentation/laying of the Committee Reports; Hindi Pakhwara organised by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat from 14 September 2005 to 28 September 2005 and release of the two books titled '*Rajya Sabha Mein Rashtrakavi Maithilisharan Gupta*' and '*Parliamentary Terms and Phrases*' on the occasion prepared by Research and Library Service and Editorial and Translation Service respectively. Visit of the delegation of Foreign Journalists to Parliament House on 3 October 2005; the Orientation Programme organised for Journalists/Reporters both for print and electronic media who cover the proceedings of Rajya Sabha on Parliamentary practice and procedure held on 25 and 26 October, 2005; and the Valedictory Remarks by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha at the end of Session.

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 2005, the Committee dealt with a total of 20 election and 6 nomination cases 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 2005. In addition, the Section compiled, published and distributed to the members the publication titled "Rajya Sabha Committee Membership 2005" and "Committees of Rajya Sabha and other Parliamentary Committees and Bodies on which Rajya Sabha is represented (2004-2005)" and laid on the Table a total of 292 Reports of various Committees received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat also took an important step for promoting the progressive use of Hindi in official work in the Secretariat. Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha constituted a *Hindi Salahkar Samiti* for the Rajya Sabha Secretariat w.e.f on 2 July 2005 to advise on the matter. Hon'ble Chairman is the Chairman of the *Samiti*. It consists of 21 official, non-official, including Members of Parliament, representatives of All India Hindi Institutions and *Kendriya Sachivalaya Hindi Parishad* and other official members. Similarly, an Official Language Implementation Committee for the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been constituted by Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 15 July 2005 under the Chairmanship of Secretary-

General, Rajya Sabha to review the implementation of the orders relating to the use of Hindi, the difficulties encountered in its implementation and to give suggestions.

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

(As on 25.05.2006)

Main responsibilities of the officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

Dr. Yogendra Narain
Secretary-General
2303-4695

Parliamentary Adviser to the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha and through him to the House.

2301-7355

2301-8676

2379-2940 (Fax)

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.

Shri N.C. Joshi
Additional Secretary
2303-4604
2301-1328 (Telefax)

Printing & Publications Service; Simultaneous Interpretation 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

Shri R.K. Singh
OSD(S)
2303-4206
2301-2592
2301-5585 (Fax)

O & M Section; Press & Media; MPLADS Committee; Distribution Branch; Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests; General supervision of the Editorial & Translation Service and Verbatim Reporting Service; Personnel Section; Estt. (General) Section; Committee Section-IV (Committee on Papers Laid on the Table); Any other work assigned

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

Smt. Vandana Garg

Joint Secretary (G)

2303-4212

2379-3412

2301-8708 (Fax)

Stores Section; Questions Branch; Committee on Human Resource Development; Welfare Unit; Committee on Health & Family Welfare; G.A. Section; Committee Section-I (Committee on Subordinate Legislation); Any other work assigned

Shri Tapan Chatterjee

Joint Secretary (C)

2303-4530

2301-0718

2301-2007 (Fax)

Committee on Home Affairs; Committee Co-ordination Section; Committee on Ethics; Conference & Protocol Section; Committee Section-II (Committee on Petitions); Any other work assigned

Shri Ravi Kant Chopra

Joint Secretary &
Financial Advisor
(JS & FA)

2303-4204

2301-4948 (Telefax)

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

Shri Sham Sher Singh

Joint Secretary (S)

2303-4057

2379-4328

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

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

Shri S.K.Kathuria

Editorial and Translation Service

Principal Chief Editor

2303-4239

2301-2522 (Tele-fax)

Shri G.C. Miglani

***Committee Section-II (Committee on
Petitions); Committee Co-ordination Section;
Committee on Ethics***

Director (Co-ord.)

2303-4557

2301-2550

Shri S.K.Thakral

***Private Secretaries & Stenographic Service;
Stenographer's Pool***

Chief Principal Private
Secretary

2303-4842

2301-2567

Smt. Agnes Momin
George

***Estt. (Accounts) & Budget Section; Committee on
Transport, Tourism & Culture; Training Unit***

Director (E)

2303-4240

2301-1805

Shri P.R.Guha Roy

***Personnel Section; Estt. (General) Section;
Committee Section -IV (Committee on Papers Laid
on the Table)***

Director (P)

2303-4202

2301-8044

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

Shri N. K. Singh
Director (Ptg./HRD)

***Administrative work relating to Printing &
Publications Service; Committee on Human Resource
Development***

2303-4733

2379-3377

Shri Gobind Lal

Verbatim Reporting Service

Principal Chief
Parliamentary Reporter

2303-4137

2379-3419

Shri S.K. Ganguli

***Table Office, Notice Office, Lobby Office, Committee
Section-III (Committee on Government Assurances)***

Director (T)

2303-4668

2301-2083

Ms. Bharti Tiwari
Director (LARRDIS)

Research and Library Service; Press & Media Unit

2303-4532

2301-4850 (Fax)

Shri Sanjay Singh

Watch & Ward, Door Keeping & Sanitation Service

Director (Security)

2303-5054

2303-4215

2301-1218 (Fax)

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

Shri Devi Dass ***M.S. & A. Section; Questions Branch (one group)***

Dy. Secy. (MS&A)

2303-4264

Shri Ajit Singh ***Centralised Pass Issue Cell (CPIC)***

Joint Director
(Security)-CPIC

2303-4780

2301-7827

Shri P.P.K.
Ramacharyulu ***Committee on Home Affairs; JPC on Wakf Boards***

Dy. Secy (Home)

2303-4256

Shri Mukul Pande ***Bill Office; Legislative Section; MPLADS Committee;
Computer Cell and Committee on Provision of
Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha***

Dy. Secy (Trg.)

2303-4693

Shri A.K. Singh

M.A. Section; Committee on Industry

Dy. Secy.(M.A.)

2303-4543

Shri A.K. Chatterjee ***O & M Section; Distribution Branch; Committee on
Science and Technology, Environment & Forests***

Deputy Secretary (D)

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

2303-4597

Shri R.C.Virwani

Verbatim Reporting Service

Chief Parliamentary
Reporter

2303-4275

Smt. Kamlesh Verma

Private Secretaries and Stenographic Service

Senior Principal Private
Secretary

2303-4124

2301-1973

Shri Sarjit Singh Lakra

***Supervision of operational/functional deployment of
Watch & Ward in Parliament House (PH) & PLB;
Administration: Training & Personnel; Welfare,
Conduct & Discipline; Record Management &
Security of Classified Documents; Investigation &
Interrogation into matters of petty theft in
Parliament House; Any other work assigned***

Joint Director (Sec.)
PHA

2303-5077

Shri S. D. Nautiyal
Joint Director (R&L)

Research and Library Service

2303-4216

Shri N.S.Walia

***Conference & Protocol Section; Questions Branch
(Two Groups)***

Deputy Secretary (GA)

2303-4187

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

Smt. Usha Sharma

Editorial and Translation Service

Chief Editor

2303-4558

Shri L.B.Shinde

Simultaneous Interpretation Service

Chief Parliamentary
Interpreter

2303-4456

2301-3927

Shri Raghab P.Dash
Joint Director,

***Assigned work in the Office of Hon'ble Chairman,
Rajya Sabha***

Office of Hon'ble
Chairman, Rajya Sabha

2301-6422

2301-7314

Shri P.B. Vanjani

Simultaneous Interpretation Service

Chief Parliamentary
Interpreter

2303-4191

Shri Y.S.Rawat,

Printing & Publications Service

Controller of Printing &
Publications

2303-5297

Shri H.C. Sethi

***Committee on Health & Family Welfare; Sales &
Archives Section***

Deputy Secretary
(H&W)

**Name, Designation &
Official Telephone
Nos.**

Main responsibility

2303-4014

Shri R.N. Bhatnagar

Watch & Ward, Door Keeping & Sanitation Service

Joint Director (Security)

2303-5077

Shri R.B. Gupta

***Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law &
Justice; Questions Branch (One Group); Welfare Unit***

Deputy Secretary (P&L)
& Welfare Officer

2303-4056

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, 10 Indian parliamentary delegations attended international conferences/meetings in various countries during the year. During this period, a total of 12 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 2005

1. INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

	COUNTRY	DATE OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES LS RS		PURPOSE OF VISIT	NAME OF RS MEMBER	NAME OF LEADER
1	London (UK)	23-29 January 2005	-	1	UK-CPA Seminar and Workshop on Human Rights and Opposition Party Politics	Dr. M.S.Gill (INC)	-
2	Manila (Philippines)	3-8 April 2005	-	3	112 th IPU Conference	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS), Smt. Maya Singh (BJP), Shri Jesudasu Seelam (INC)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
3	Paris (France)	22-23 April 2005	2	1	Conference on "Initiative on the enhancement of powers of Parliamentarians with regard to the International Environmental	Smt. N.P.Durga (TDP)	Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, M.P.(LS)

Laws and
Institutions for
Sustainable
Development”

4	Nadi (Fiji)	1-9 September 2005	7	2	51 st CPA Conference	Smt. Sushma Swaraj (BJP), Shri Rishang Keishing (INC),	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
5.	Geneva (Switzerland)	17-19 October 2005	5	2	113 th IPU Conference	Shri K.Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS), Smt. Hema Malini (BJP)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
6	Budapest (Hungary)	10-12 November 2005	-	1	International Round Table Conference entitled "Science, Technology and Innovation Policy : The Role of the Parliaments"	Shri P.G. Narayanan (AIADMK) Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	-

2. GOODWILL DELEGATIONS

COUNTRY		DATES OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES		NAME OF RS MEMBER	NAME OF LEADER
1.	Belarus	23-27 May 2005	LS 5	RS 2	Smt. Chandra Kala Pandey (CPI(M)), Shri Harendra Singh Malik (INLD)	Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker (LS)
2.	Trinidad &	31 May – 1	5	2	Shri N.K.	Shri Somnath

	Tobago	June 2005			Premachandran (RSP), Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy (TDP)	Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
3.	Turkey	11-16 June 2005	5	2	Shri Uday Pratap Singh (SP), Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi (SBP)	Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker (LS)
4.	European Parliament Strasbourg (France)	2-6 July 2005	4	2	Shri Fali S. Nariman (Nominated)	Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman (RS)

B. Visits of Foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India during the year 2005

	COUNTRY	DATES OF VISIT	NO. OF DELEGATES	NAME OF LEADER
1.	France	3-5 February 2005	6	H.E. Mr. Christian Poncelet, President of the French Senate
2.	Sudan	21-27 February 2005	5	H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdul Rahman, Secretary-General of the Council for International Peoples' Friendship of Sudan
3.	Iran	27 February – 4 March 2005	12	H.E. Dr. Gholamali Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) of the Islamic Republic of Iran
4.	Bhutan	24 February – 9 March 2005	11	H.E. Mr. Dasno Rinzia Gyafishen, Chairman Royal Advisory Council of Bhutan
5.	Jordan	19-23 April 2005	9	H.E. Mr. Sami Ali Moh'd Khasawneh, Member of

Parliament of Jordan

6.	Malaysia	26-29 July 2005	8	H.E. Mr. Tan Sri Dato' DiRaja Ramli bin Ngah Talib, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia
7.	Germany	2-3 August 2005	2	H.E. Ms. Dr. Antji Vollmer, Deputy Speaker of the German Parliament
8.	U.K.	8-16 October 2005	6	Lord Paul of Marylebone, U.K.
9.	Mexico	24-28 October 2005	9	H.E. Mrs. Silvia Hernandez, President of Committee of Competitiveness of the Senate of Mexico
10.	China	8-14 November 2005	5	Mr. Wang Zhaoguo, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC)
11.	Uzbekistan	22-25 November 2005	6	H.E. Mr. E. Khalilov, Speaker of Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan
12.	Italy	25-29 November 2005	6	Senator Maria Clandia Ioannucci, President of

Smt. Margaret Alva, honorary advisor to Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) and former Minister of State in various Ministries addressing the audience during the Orientation Programme organised for Journalists/Reporters covering the proceedings of Rajya Sabha on practice and procedure of Parliament on 25 and 26 October 2005. Also seen (from Left) are Shri N.C. Joshi, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and Shri Ravi Kant Chopra, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Journalists and Reporters during the Orientation Programme organised on 25 and 26 October 2005.

A select group of National Union of Journalists (India) and some European journalists met Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha in Parliament House on 3 October 2005.

4.

New initiatives

Computerization:

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been doing a pioneering work not only in computerization of the Secretariat but also in providing computers with latest technology to Members of Rajya Sabha as well as upgrading and facilitating the computerization activities for Members. The Computer Cell, Rajya Sabha Secretariat while implementing various computerization initiatives of the Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha, the Computerisation Coordination Committee and the Computer Procurement Committee of the Secretariat, purchased 13 desktop computers, 18 laptop computers, 26 laser printers, 6 UPS and 31 pen drives for Members of Rajya Sabha as per their options, and 69 desktop computers, 3 laptop computers, 17 deskjet printers, 38 laser printers, 194 UPS, 3 dot matrix printers, 1 scanner and 6 pen drives for the Secretariat during the year 2005.

With a view to providing a single vendor Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) service both for the Members and the Secretariat, the Secretariat floated an open tender for comprehensive AMC of computers and associated peripherals being used by the Members of Rajya Sabha and in the Secretariat.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the National Informatics Centre (NIC) was signed on 7 July 2005 for the Project on Digitization of Debates of Rajya Sabha since 1952 and publishing them on the CD/DVD and the Internet. Besides, the Rajya Sabha Telephone Directory with search facility was released on the Rajya Sabha Website.

Parliament and the people

There are two Reception Offices located in the Parliament House Complex, one near Parliament House and the other at the Parliament House Annexe. These Reception Offices help visitors to meet Members of Parliament, Ministers, officers and staff of 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 2005, the two Reception Offices issued 31,735 casual entry passes and 49 interview slips.

The requests for the Central Hall passes, DVG (Diplomatic) weekly cards, General passes, Public Gallery passes, Distinguished Visitors Gallery passes and Central Hall passes for the Joint sitting are received in Notice Office and after due processing and approval, the requisitions are forwarded to the Centralised Pass Issue Cell (CPIC) for issue of Passes-Bar Coded/Radio Frequency (RF) Tags as the case may be. Notice Office monitors these passes issued by the CPIC. However, the work relating to the issue of DVG (Diplomatic) annual photo pass valid for one year to high rank Diplomats like Heads of the Foreign Missions, Consulates, Honorary Consulates and Heads of the U.N. Organisations is being looked after by Notice Office. The names of such diplomats are sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs.

During the year, 66 general passes, 2 Library passes, 635 Central Hall passes, 118 DVG (Diplomatic) annual cards and 638 DVG (Diplomatic) daily cards were issued. Also, 6,111 Officials of the Ministries / Departments, 1,022 Press Correspondents and 6,825 visitors to the Public Gallery witnessed the proceedings of Rajya Sabha. On the recommendations of Members of Parliament 3,070 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 55,027 persons/visitors in Parliament House Complex and Parliament House Annexe apart from the staff members, political leaders and delegates during the year.

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

F&T Wing of the Watch and Ward Service is responsible for the Police verification of the character/antecedents of the visitors to the Parliament House Complex. A total number of 3,035 verifications were done during the year, which include 177 journalists, 2,376 visitors of the Public Gallery (PG) and DVG, 170 casual labourers and 57 PSs/ PAs of Members. Ground level verification of journalists was also taken up during the year. During the first phase, 221 and in the second phase, 34 verifications of journalists were done.

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HRD Initiative:

A proactive approach has been initiated in the security management and a lot of emphasis is being laid on the training and grooming of the manpower of the Watch and Ward Service. During the year 2005, new initiatives were taken to enhance the overall personality of the security personnel along with training in parliamentary practice and procedures and gender sensitization. Activities like group

discussions and swimming practices, etc. were also organized. Apart from these activities, 59 Security Assistants were sent to attend the 4th Induction Level Training Course at the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Hyderabad. Specialized security training inputs were provided to enhance the operational and functional efficiency of the security personnel.

“Knowledge acquisition and sharing programme” was another new initiative taken to help the security staff to get a clear understanding of security concepts, to develop confidence and professionalism so as to enable them to take up challenges as also to tackle any contingency. Eight groups, each consisting of 3-4 Security Officers/Assistants, were formed and given a topic on different aspects of security. They were asked to prepare projects by conducting extensive research on the subjects. Seven groups shared the knowledge acquired by them through a Power Point Presentation before the Secretary-General, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary (Security), senior officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and senior officers of the Watch and Ward of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Secretariats.

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 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.

Guidelines regarding bearing of expenditure on study tours of Parliamentary Committees by the Rajya Sabha/Lok Sabha Secretariat:

It has been decided by the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha in consultation with the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Secretariats shall bear expenditure on board, lodging and transport, etc. for members and officers accompanying the parliamentary committees. Consequently, the practice of incurring expenditure by the Ministries/Government Organisations/PSUs on study tours of Parliamentary Committees has been discontinued and for implementation of this decision, comprehensive guidelines have been issued in May 2005.

During the year 2005, out of the total of 125 reports presented by these Committees, 105 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 2005

No. of Reports

Subjects

Committee on Subordinate Legislation

(Total: 7)

155 th	Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha (202 nd Session)
156 th	Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha (203 rd Session)
157 th	(i) The Regional Rural Banks (Appointment and Promotion of

Officers and Other Employees) Rules, 1998

(ii) The Punjab National Bank General Regulations, 2000

(iii) The Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993 and the Export-Import Policy, 1997-2002

(iv) The Export of Live Fish (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2002

(v) The Cost Accounting Records (Electricity Industry) Rules, 2001

(vi) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Agents) Regulations, 1972 – Implementation of One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha

158th Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha (204th Session)

159th (i) Non- framing of Regulations under the Trade Unions Act, 1926- Implementation of the Seventy-fourth Report of the Committee

(ii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959- Implementation of the One Hundred and Twenty-first Report of the Committee

(iii) The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Regulations, 1999- Implementation of the One Hundred and Forty-third Report of the Committee

(iv) The Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Regulations, 1976- Implementation of the One Hundred and Forty-fourth Report of the Committee

(v) The National Dairy Development Board (Enforcement of Claims) Regulations, 2000- Implementation of the One Hundred and Fifty-first Report of the Committee

160th (i) Model Formula for Laying of Statutory Rules before both Houses of Parliament

(ii) The Mormugao Port Employees' (Medical Attendance) Regulations, 1969

(iii) The Mormugao Port Employees (Recruitment, Seniority & Promotion) Regulations, 1964

(iv) The Railway Passengers (Cancellation of Ticket and Refund of Fare) Rules, 1998

(v) The Scheme for Bulk Filing of Returns by Salaried Employees, 2002

161st Laying of Statutory Orders on the Table of Rajya Sabha
(205th Session)

Committee on Petitions

(Total : 5)

122nd Petitions regarding the non-implementation of the amended pension payment provisions by the State Bank of India

123rd Petition praying for legislative and other measures to check adulteration of petrol/diesel and other malpractices at the retail outlets and action on some other related matters

124th Petition praying for enactment of a comprehensive legislation for unorganized workers and effecting suitable amendments in the existing enactments to improve the conditions of construction workers/migrant labourers besides banning the use of asbestos to get rid of toxin in e-waste

125th Petition regarding violation of public policy on Employees' Provident Fund by M/s Fairgrowth Financial Services Limited and the need for amendment in the existing laws to regulate the functioning of the Provident Fund Trusts established by the private companies in the country

126th Petition seeking legislative measures *inter- alia* to provide a regulatory mechanism for private nursing homes/clinics and stringent penal provisions for production/distribution, etc. of spurious medicines

Committee on Government Assurances

(Total : 1)

59th Report on implementation of assurances laid during the 203rd, 204th and 205th Sessions/requests for dropping and extension of time, study visits of the Committee, etc.

Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

(Total : 3)

97th (i) Sports Authority of India
(ii) Hindustan Antibiotics Limited and
(iii) Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

98th Government Notifications/Orders and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Government Companies/Organisations laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the 203rd Session

99th Government Notifications/Orders and Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Government Companies/Organisations laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the 204th Session

House Committee

NIL

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

NIL

Committee on Ethics ***(Total: 4)***

4th Discipline and Decorum in the Council, Declaration of Assets and Liabilities, Register of Members' Interests and reiteration of Code of Conduct

5th Preliminary Report on telecasting of a programme entitled "Operation Duryodhan" by a private channel alleging acceptance of money for asking questions by Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha, M.P

6th Procedure under sub-rule (3) of Rule 293 for giving information contained in the "Register of Members' Interests" to the general public

7th Final report on telecasting of a programme entitled "Operation Duryodhan" by a private channel alleging acceptance of money for asking questions by Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha, M.P

Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha

NIL

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce

(Total : 10)

67th Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixty- second Report on Functioning of State Trading Corporation

68th Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Sixty- fourth Report on Export of Tea

69th Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fifty- fourth Report on Foreign Direct Investment

70th to 71st Demands for Grants (2005-06)

72nd Report on Problems of Coffee Growers
73rd Action Taken Report on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fifty-fifth Report on Export of Gems & Jewellery

74th Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Bill, 2005

75th Report on India and the Sixth Ministerial

76th Report on Floriculture

***Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Home Affairs (Total : 7)***

111th Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003

112th to 113th Demands for Grants (2005-06)

114th The Displaced Persons Claims and Other Laws Repeal Bill, 2004

115th The Disaster Management Bill, 2005

116th The State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Bill, 2004

117th Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the Eighty-third Report pertaining to the Personnel Policy of CISF

***Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Human Resource Development (Total : 18)***

154th Functioning of Navodaya Vidyalayas

155th to 157th Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2004-05)

158 th to 160 th	Demands for Grants (2005-06)
161 st	University of Allahabad Bill, 2004
162 nd	Functioning of Kendriya Vidyalayas
163 rd	Demands for Grants (2005-06)
164 th	Manipur University Bill, 2005
165 th	Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005
166 th	Action Taken Report on Gender Budget Analysis
167 th	National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2005
168 th to 171 st	Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2005-06)

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry

(Total : 18)

160 th	Report on Tax proposals affecting the various segments of industries (Ministry of Small Scale Industries)
161 st	Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Report on MoU performance in respect of select Public Sector Undertakings
162 nd	Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Report on Credit Flow to SSI Sector in Maharashtra
163 rd	Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Forty-seventh Report on Credit Flow to SSI Sector in the region of Bulandshahar
164 th to 167 th	Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05)
168 th to 171 st	Demands for Grants (2005-06)
172 nd	Report on Requirement of Coir Industries for its promotion and proliferation (Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries)
173 rd	Report on Inter-Sectoral Strategic Co-operation to promote Small Scale Industries
174 th	Report on operational effectiveness of PMRY, REGP and KVI schemes in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra

175th Report on key concern areas of Small Scale Industries in select States

176th The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005

177th The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2005

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests (Total: 21)

132nd Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred-eighteenth Report on the Conservation and Environmental Management Plan for Dal-Nagin Lake, Srinagar

133rd to 139th Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2004-05)

140th to 146th Demands for Grants (2005-06)

147th to 152nd Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2005-06)

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture (Total : 8)

84th to 88th Demands for Grants (2005-06)

89th The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2004

90th Development of Airport Sector with special emphasis on new modern airports

91st Functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India

Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare (Total: 12)

4th to 6th Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05)

7th to 9th Demands for Grants (2005-06)

10th The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005

11th The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005

12 th	The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005
13 th to 15 th	Action Taken Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06)
<i>Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee of Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice (Total : 11)</i>	
3 rd	The Right to Information Bill, 2004
4 th	The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Bill, 2004
5 th to 6 th	Demands for Grants (2005-06)
7 th	The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2004
8 th	The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2004
9 th	The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2003
10 th	The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2005
11 th	The National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2004
12 th	The Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004
13 th	The Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2004

Probity in Public Life - Committee on Ethics:

The Committee on Ethics has been functioning in Rajya Sabha since March 1997, as a self-regulatory mechanism to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of its members. The rules relating to the functioning of the Committee on Ethics have been incorporated in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States and came into force on 20 July 2004. As per Section 75A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and as per the rules relating to the Committee, every elected member is required to furnish information regarding his/her assets and liabilities and the assets and liabilities of his/her spouse and dependent children. The detailed rules for this purpose called the Members of Rajya Sabha (Declaration of Assets and Liabilities) Rules, 2004 have been framed by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (3) of Section 75A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The declaration, as per the rules, has to be made by the member within ninety days from the date of his/her taking oath/affirmation in the House. The tasks of overseeing and keeping the record of declaration of assets and liabilities under the rules have been entrusted to the Committee on Ethics.

The Committee on Ethics in its Fourth Report presented to Rajya Sabha on 14 March 2005 and adopted by the House on 20 April 2005 identified five pecuniary

interests, viz. (i) Remunerative Directorship; (ii) Regular Remunerated Activity; (iii) Shareholding of Controlling Nature; (iv) Paid Consultancy; and (v) Professional Engagement. The information on these five pecuniary interests is required to be furnished by the members which is maintained in the 'Register of Members' Interests' as provided under Rule 293 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).

The Committee in its Fifth Report (Preliminary) presented to Rajya Sabha on 13 December 2005 and adopted the same day by the House, examined, on a reference being made by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, the conduct of Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha, Member, Rajya Sabha on the charge of accepting money for asking questions, as depicted in a programme titled "Operation Duryodhan", telecast by a private channel. The Committee recommended his suspension from the House pending the presentation of the final report in the matter. Consequent upon the adoption of the motion by the House accepting the recommendation, Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha stood suspended from the service of the House till the presentation of the final report by the Committee.

The Committee in its Sixth Report presented to Rajya Sabha on 15 December 2005 dealt with the procedure for giving information contained in the 'Register of Members' Interests' to the general public, the form and manner for addressing a complaint and framing of rules for conducting inquiry. The Report was considered and adopted by the House on 21 March 2006.

In its Seventh Report presented to Rajya Sabha on 23 December 2005 which was adopted by the House the same day, the Committee recommended the expulsion of Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha from the membership of the House for his grossly improper conduct as shown in a programme titled "Operation Duryodhan" telecast by a private channel which according to the Committee had compromised the dignity of the House and brought it into disrepute.

House at work

During the year 2005, Rajya Sabha sat for 85 days – 38 days during the 204th Session, 24 days during the 205th Session and 23 days during the 206th Session. The 204th Session (Budget Session) was the longest, from 25 February to 13 May 2005, with a break from 25 March to 18 April, with a view to enabling the Department-related Standing Committees to examine Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments. During the year 2005, the House sat for 401 hours and 29 minutes. The House sat longer than the normal 5 hours on 48 days and without lunch break on 8 days.

Summons for the 204th Session (Budget Session) was issued on 31 January 2005. The 204th Session of Rajya Sabha commenced on 25 February 2005 and adjourned *sine die* on 13 May 2005. The President addressed Members of both Houses of Parliament assembled

Session 2005	Date of Commencement	Date of Termination	Number of Sittings	Actual Hours of Sittings Hrs.— Mts.
204 th	25 Feb	13 May	38	173 - 05
205 th	25 July	30 Aug	24	117 - 26
206 th	23 Nov	23 Dec	23	110 - 58

together in the Central Hall on 25 February 2005. Summons for the 205th Session was issued on 8 July 2005. The 205th Session that commenced on 25 July 2005 was adjourned *sine die* on 30 August 2005. Summons for the 206th Session was issued on 3 November 2005. The 206th Session of Rajya Sabha commenced on 23 November 2005 and adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 2005.

During the year under review, 243 Lists of Business were issued with regard to the business of the House. In all 4304 papers were laid on the Table of the House. During the year, five divisions were held.

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, in English as well as Hindi, of speeches made in Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. The facility of such interpretation was also provided in the meetings of all the Parliamentary Committees of Rajya Sabha during the year.

The average attendance of Members during the 204th Session was 145. It was 169 and 165 during the 205th and 206th Sessions respectively. The highest attendance on a day during the 204th Session was 183. It was 183 and 189 during the 205th and 206th Sessions, respectively.

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 2005, a total of 31,709 notices of questions, both starred and unstarred, were received, of which 13,964 were admitted. Out of these, 1618 questions were listed as starred questions and of these 368 questions, constituting around 22.74 per cent, were taken up for oral answer in the House. During the year, Question Hour was dispensed with on one occasion, *i.e.*, 11 August 2005.

During the year, nine 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, ten notices were received but none was admitted. Besides, thirty-three notices for half-an-hour discussion arising out of the answers given to starred/unstarred questions were received, out of which four were admitted and discussed on the floor of the House.

Legislation:

The following are some of the statistics relating to Bills which came up before Rajya Sabha during the year 2005:

• Number of sittings during which the Government Bills were introduced, considered or laid/reported as passed by Lok Sabha	58
• Number of sittings during which the Private Members' Bills were introduced or considered	07
• Number of Government Bills introduced	33
• Number of Private Members' Bills introduced	94
• Number of Government Bills withdrawn/fallen through during the year	06
• Number of Government Bills negatived	00
• Number of Private Members' Bills withdrawn	03
• Number of Private Members' Bills negatived	01
• Number of Government Bills transmitted by Lok Sabha	38#
• Number of Government Bills transmitted by Rajya Sabha	21
• Number of Government Bills introduced in Rajya Sabha and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees	21
• Number of Bills reported by the Select Committees of Rajya Sabha	00
• 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	65
• Number of Government Bills passed/returned by Rajya Sabha	59#
• Number of Government Bills pending at the commencement of the year	36
• Number of Government Bills pending at the end of the year	43
• Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the commencement of the year	161
• Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the end of the year	210
• 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	13

During the 204th, 205th and 206th Sessions of Rajya Sabha, out of the total 85 sittings held, the House transacted Government legislative business and Private Members' legislative business on 59 days. Thirty three (33) Government Bills were introduced in Rajya Sabha during the year and out of these Bills, 21 Bills were referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees for examination and report. Ninety-four Private Members' Bills were introduced in Rajya Sabha and 5 Private Members' Bills were discussed, out of which 3 Bills were withdrawn by the leave of the House and one Bill was negatived while one Bill remained part discussed.

Including the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2005 on which the amendments made by Lok Sabha were agreed to by Rajya Sabha during the 205th Session.

The Sessions held in the year 2005, witnessed some important legislative developments. The Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2005 was passed by both Houses of Parliament in March 2005 to streamline the Patents Act, 1970 in consonance with the changing needs of patent regime due to globalization and its impact on the domestic market and also to adhere to the international obligations in which India is a party through various treaties and conventions. The Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2005 sought to replace the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance 2004, promulgated by the President on 26 December 2004. The Bill was assented to by the President on 4 April 2005 and became Act No. 15 of 2005.

To ensure greater and more effective access to information to the public at large and to bring transparency in the affairs of the Government, the Right to Information Bill, 2005, a historic piece of legislation was passed by both Houses of Parliament in May 2005. The Bill seeks to provide for setting out a practical regime of right to information for people to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority. For this purpose, it provides for appointment of a Central Public Information Officer in each public authority. It also provides for constitution of a Central Information Commission for monitoring the whole mechanism of dissemination of information. A similar set up has also been provided for the States under the Act. The Bill was assented to by the President on 15 June 2005 and became Act No. 22 of 2005.

The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2005 was passed by both Houses of Parliament in August 2005. It seeks to remove the gender discrimination and provide parity to daughter in relation to son for participating in the coparcenary ownership for inheriting the ancestral property and retained the fundamental right to equality guaranteed by the Constitution. The Bill was assented to by the President on 5 September 2005 and became Act No. 39 of 2005.

One of the landmark legislations was the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2005 passed by both Houses of Parliament in August 2005. It constitutes a pioneering endeavour to secure wage employment for the poor households in the rural areas as a guaranteed entitlement. It seeks to provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment in the form of unskilled manual work in public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person to enhance the livelihood security of the poor households in rural areas of the country. If no employment was provided to an applicant within 15 days of receipt of his application seeking employment he would be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance at a prescribed rate. The Bill was assented to by the President on 5 September 2005 and became Act No. 42 of 2005.

Domestic violence in our country has been recognized as criminal offence under section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, but it has a very limited ambit. In order to fulfill the long-standing demand to have a civil law on the domestic violence, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill, 2005 was passed by both Houses of Parliament in August 2005 to address the problem of domestic violence keeping in view the rights guaranteed under articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution. It provides for the safety and security of women, by preventing the occurrence of domestic violence in the society. The Bill was assented to by the President on 13 September 2005 and became Act No. 43 of 2005.

The Disaster Management Bill, 2005 passed by both Houses of Parliament in December 2005, provides for the requisite institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans, ensuring

measures by various wings of the Government for preventing and mitigating effects of disasters and for undertaking a holistic, coordinated and prompt response to any disaster situation. It also provides for setting up of a National Disaster Management Authority, the State Disaster Management Authorities, the District Disaster Management Authorities and National Institute of Disaster Management. The Bill further provides for constitution of a National Disaster Response Fund and a National Disaster Mitigation Fund and similar funds at the State and district levels. The Bill was assented to by the President on 23 December 2005 and became Act No. 53 of 2005.

The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005 passed by both Houses of Parliament in December 2005, seeks to provide the children opportunities and facilities to develop in healthy atmosphere with required freedom and dignity and to ensure that their constitutional and legal rights are protected. It provides for setting up of a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights for better protection of child rights with enabling provision authorizing the State Governments to set up the State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights. The functions of the Commission *inter alia* include to study and monitor all matters relating to constitutional and legal rights of children and to look into complaints or take *suo motu* notice of the cases involving violation of constitutional and legal rights of children. The Bill was assented to by the President on 20 January 2006 and became Act No. 4 of 2006.

The Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Act, 2005 is one of the landmark enactments to promote educational advancement of the students belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) of citizens in matters of admission to unaided educational institutions, other than the minority educational institutions. The above Act was introduced in the Lok Sabha as the Constitution (One hundred and fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005 and both Houses of Parliament passed the Bill in December 2005. The President assented to the Bill on the 20 January 2006.

In addition to the above legislative developments, various other Bills such as the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2005, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Bill, 2005, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2005, the University of Allahabad Bill, 2005, the Manipur University Bill, 2005, the Special Economic Zones Bill, 2005, the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2005, 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 662 matters of public importance were mentioned in the House through **special mention**. Out of the 104 **calling attention** notices on the matters of urgent public importance received, notice on the following 10 subjects were finally admitted and taken up in the House:

- (i) Serious crisis faced by the cultivators of vanilla due to fall in the prices (13.5.2005);

- (ii) Situation arising due to the recent hike in petrol and diesel prices (2.8.2005);
- (iii) Unprecedented rain in Mumbai and loss of human lives and property (2.8.2005 and 3.8.2005);
- (iv) Recent accident in Bombay High ONGC platform (3.8.2005);
- (v) Adverse effect of TV programmes and media contents on the mental health of the children and adolescents in the country (8.8.2005);
- (vi) Steep rise in prices of drugs and misuse of drugs in the country and remedial measures taken by the Government (17.8.2005);
- (vii) Sale of textile mill land in Mumbai and its socio-economic impact (25.8.2005);
- (viii) Shortage of LPG and black marketing of kerosene in the country (8.12.2005);
- (ix) Situation arising out of the prolonged violence prevailing in tribal dominated areas in Assam resulting in loss of human lives and properties (21.12.2005); and
- (x) Need for formulating a balanced national mineral and mining policy with particular reference to the export of iron ore and denial of linkages for steel production (23.12.2005).

During the year, 178 notices of **short duration discussion** were received, out of which notices on the following 12 matters were admitted and discussed in the House:

- (i) Situation arising out of large scale devastation caused by Tsunami on 26 December 2004 (9.5.2005);
- (ii) Suicide by farmers in various parts of the country (22.3.2005);
- (iii) Report of the V.S. Malimath Committee on Criminal Justice System (10.5.2005);
- (iv) Reconstituting the North-Eastern Council (11.5.2005);
- (v) Situation arising due to drought and flood in various parts of the country (26.7.2005 and 27.7.2005);
- (vi) Recent terrorist attack in Ayodhya (27.7.2005);
- (vii) Situation arising out of the striking down of the IMDT Act by the Supreme Court (22.8.2005 and 23.8.2005);

- (viii) State of agriculture, poverty and unemployment in the country in the light of mid-term appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan (23.8.2005 and 24.8.2005);
- (ix) Devastation caused by heavy rains and floods in southern states of the country and relief measures undertaken by the Government (30.11.2005);
- (x) Internal security scenario in the country (1.12.2005);
- (xi) Public Distribution System in the country (14.12.2005 and 15.12.2005); and
- (xii) Concern over atrocities against women in the country (21.12.2005).

Privilege Cases:

During the year, 15 notices of breach of privilege were received and processed. One case relating to alleged assault on Shri N.K. Premachandran, M.P. by the Kerala Police was referred to the Committee and no report of the Committee of Privileges was presented to the House.

Procedure for laying of papers on the Table of the House by private members:

Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha issued a direction in March 2005 regarding the procedure for laying of papers by private members. Now, if a private member desires to lay a paper or document on the Table of the House, he has to give prior notice to the Chairman of his intention enclosing a copy of the documents which he desires to lay in order to enable the Chairman to decide whether permission should be given to lay the particular paper or document on the Table. If a private member, in the course of his speech wishes to quote from a secret or confidential or classified Government document, paper or report, he has to supply a copy of the same to the Chairman indicating the portions which he wishes to quote in order to enable the Chairman to decide whether permission should be granted. A paper or document which a private member wants to lay on the Table may be considered for laying only if the member has quoted from such paper or document. If the Chairman does not accord the necessary permission to do so, it shall be returned to the member and the fact will be indicated in the printed debates.

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 204th, 205th and 206th Sessions

Subject	Time Taken		
	<u>204th</u> Hrs./Mts.	<u>205th</u> Hrs./Mts.	<u>206th</u> Hrs./Mts.
National Anthem/Song	00-02	00-02	00-02

Oath or Affirmation	00-02	00-12	-
Obituary References	00-42	00-30	00-28
Suspension of Question Hour	-	02-04	-
Questions	26-11	15-55	15-58
Statements by Ministers Correcting Answers to Questions	00-04	00-01	00-02
Papers Laid on the Table	00-47	00-34	00-33
Reports/Statements of the Committees presented/laid on the Table	00-53	00-28	00-33
Information to the House	-	-	00-02
Presentation of Petition	00-01	00-01	-
Resignation by Member	00-02	-	00-01
Ruling/Reference /Announcement by Chairman	00-19	00-05	00-18
Panel of Vice- Chairmen	-	00-01	-
Leave of Absence	00-07	00-04	00-07
Messages from Lok Sabha/Government Bills laid on the Table	00-22	00-11	00-12
Motions for Elections/Appointments of Members to various Committees/Bodies	00-06	00-11	00-05
Motion regarding Report of the Committee on Ethics	00-33	-	02-09
Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee	00-09	00-05	00-04
Statements regarding Government Business	00-06	00-07	00-05
Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance	00-33	13-32	04-43
Discussion on the working of Ministries	23-01	-	-
Special Mentions	09-13	06-53	06-22
Statements by Ministers	02-47	01-31	03-35
Short Duration Discussions (Discussions under Rule 176)	11-32	23-20	21-48

Subject

	<u>204th</u> Hrs./Mts.	Time Taken <u>205th</u> Hrs./Mts.	<u>206th</u> Hrs./Mts.
Homage/Felicitation	00-02	00-03	00-01
Resolution/ Government Resolutions	00-19	00-48	-
Motions	-	06-08	06-25
Statutory Resolutions	06-14	03-58	-
Government Legislative Business	31-38	20-04	35-23
Private Members' Business			
- Private Members' Resolutions	08-48	05-22	01-51
- Private Members' Bills	02-50	07-43	02-13
President's Address laid on the Table	00-01	-	-
Motion of Thanks on the President's Address	09-35	-	-

Budgets laid on the Table	00-03	00-02	-
Supplementary Demands for Grants-laid on the Table	00-33	00-01	00-02
Budget—General Discussions	17-49	-	-
Good wishes to the retiring Members of the House	-	01-10	-
Matters raised with permission	05-52	02-54	03-54
Half-an-hour Discussion	05-36	-	-
Valedictory Remarks	00-11	00-25	00-20
Points raised	06-32	02-58	03-42
TOTAL	173-05	117-26	110-58

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 2005 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;
June 2006

DR. YOGENDRA NARAIN
Secretary-General,
Rajya Sabha.