

6 Secretariat



Parliament House Annexe

The total staff strength of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year stood at 1038, out of which 291 persons were holding group 'A' posts. There was no retirement on superannuation in the Secretariat during the year. However, two officials – one Senior Executive Assistant and one Executive Officer took voluntary retirement with effect from 4 May 1999 and 1 August 1999, respectively.

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, Joint Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Secretaries in charge of different divisions/services is given in the accompanying Table.

Responsibilities of the O&M Section are designed with a view to bringing more

The preparation of a detailed Office Manual on Office Procedure is almost complete and portions of the Manual are being put into operation on experimental basis. The concept of periodical inspection of all Sections and Units was introduced with a view to diagnosing the problems regarding day to day working and subsequently making efforts to streamline the functioning and increase efficiency.

efficiency and transparency in the Secretariat through improvement of the organizational pattern and simplification of procedures, etc. In 1999, the Section prepared the Administrative Report-1998 giving statistical details to a considerable extent to enable performance appraisal.

The Training Unit of the Secretariat arranged various training programmes on parliamentary procedure and functioning of the Secretariat for officers and the staff of the Secretariat. Training Programme was also arranged for the fellows of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies. The officers of the Secretariat were sent on various programmes/training courses including Computer Training Programme to ISTM and NIC. Officers were also sent to other states on the Management in Government Programme organised by the Department of Personnel and Training. With the introduction of personal computers in almost all the Sections of the Secretariat, computer-training programme on M.S.Word, M.S.Excel, Leap Office, how to use Internet were arranged for the officers/staff of the secretariat. Training Unit also arranged intensive programme for staff on office procedure. Some training programmes and visits organised during the year are:

- A delegation from South Africa visited India to study Center-State and Inter-State relations. For the benefit of the delegation an interactive session was arranged on 25 January 1999.
- A delegation headed by Eleen Kaufman, Vice-Dean and Professor of Law Centre Touro College, New York and other members of the Team consisting of Professors and students visited Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 28 June 1999 to acquaint themselves with the functioning of Rajya Sabha.
- With the assistance of the USIS, New Delhi the Training Unit arranged for a training programme for two of the officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat who attended the programme from 14-29 June 1999 in the International Legislative Drafting Institute, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.
- A training programme with focus on the Committee System in U.S.Congress, Washington, D.C. was also arranged under the auspices of USIS which was attended by two of the officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat between 13 and 23 June 1999.

- Training Unit later organised an information-sharing programme with the officers of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat who visited USA.

- An interactive session was arranged with officers of the level of Director and above on the functioning of Rajya Sabha on 21 September 1999 for Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Salim, Registrar General of Political Association in the Republic of Sudan.

- Prof. D. Yogananda Rao, along with students and members of the Bangalore Institute of Legal Studies participated in an interactive programme on law-making process.

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

Main responsibilities of officers of Rajya Sabha Secretariat

Name,designation & official telephone nos.	Main responsibility
Shri R.C. Tripathi Secretary-General 303-4695 301-7355	<i>Parliamentary Adviser to the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha and through him to the House.</i> <i>Administrative Head 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>
Shri Satish Kumar Additional Secretary 303-4204 301-2592	<i>Question Branch; General supervision of Department-related Committee Sections for Human Resource Development, Science & Technology, Commerce, Home Affairs, Industry, Transport & Tourism; Establishment Sections</i>
Shri S. Vijay Kumar Joint Secretary 303-4604 301-1328	<i>General supervision of Committee Sections for Privileges, Assurances, Papers Laid, Subordinate Legislation, Rules, General Purposes, Computers, etc. ; Table Office; Notice Office; Legislative Section; Bill Office; O & M Section; and Computer Cell</i>

<p>Shri R. Srinivasan</p> <p>Joint Secretary</p> <p>303-4733</p> <p>379-3651</p>	<p><i>Reporting Service; Interpretation Service; Editorial, Synopsis and Translation Service</i></p>
<p>Smt. Vanaja N. Sarna</p> <p>Director (A)</p> <p>303-4206</p> <p>379-3377</p>	<p><i>Personnel Section; Estt.(G) Section; Estt. (A/Cs) Section; G.A.Section; Stores; Conference & Protocol Section</i></p>
<p>Shri N.C. Joshi</p> <p>Director (R&L)</p> <p>303-4532</p> <p>301-8620</p>	<p><i>Research and Library Section; Ethics Committee; Printing and Publications Service</i></p>
<p>Shri R.C. Goel</p> <p>Director (I)</p> <p>303-4456</p> <p>301-3927</p>	<p><i>Interpretation Service</i></p>
<p>Shri H.K. Chanana</p> <p>Director (Q)</p> <p>303-4530</p> <p>301-2550</p>	<p><i>Committee on S & T; Questions (Overall in charge of Questions Branch);</i></p> <p><i>Distribution Branch; O & M Section; Sales & Archives Section</i></p>
<p>Shri Tapas Das Gupta</p> <p>Director (MA)</p> <p>303-4057</p> <p>379-4328</p>	<p><i>Training Unit; Computer Cell; Committee on Industry; M.A.Section</i></p>

<p>Shri L. Srirama Murty</p> <p>Director (R)</p> <p>303-4137</p> <p>379-3419</p>	<p><i>Reporters' Branch</i></p>
<p>Smt. Vandana Garg</p> <p>Director (HRD)</p> <p>303-4212</p> <p>379-3412</p>	<p><i>Committee on HRD</i></p>
<p>Shri Tapan Chatterjee</p> <p>Dy. Secy. (HA)</p> <p>303-4187</p>	<p><i>Committee on Home Affairs</i></p>
<p>Shri Sham Sher Singh</p> <p>Dy. Secy. (L)</p> <p>303-4693</p>	<p><i>Legislative Section; Bill Office; Watch and Ward; Committee on Government Assurances</i></p>
<p>Shri G.C. Miglani</p> <p>Dy. Secy.(Q-I)</p> <p>303-4557</p>	<p><i>Questions (One Group); Committee on Petitions</i></p>
<p>Shri S.C. Agarwal</p> <p>Dy. Secy.(Q-II)</p> <p>303-4201</p>	<p><i>M.S.& A.Section; Questions (One Group)</i></p>
<p>Smt. Agnes Momin George</p> <p>Dy.Secy.(E)</p> <p>303-4240</p>	<p><i>Establishment(Gen.)Section; Establishment (A/Cs) Section; Committee on Transport and Tourism</i></p>

Shri P.R. Guha Roy Dy. Secy. (P) 303-4202	<i>Personnel Section; Welfare Officer; Committee on Papers Laid</i>
Shri Surinder Kr. Watts Dy. Secy. (Comm.) 303-4262	<i>Committee on Commerce; Questions (Two Groups)</i>
Shri S.K. Ganguli Dy. Secy.(T) 303-4668	<i>Notice Office; Table Office; Lobby Office; Stenographers Pool</i>
Shri O.D. Sharma Dy. Secy. (D) 303-4475	<i>O&M Section; Distribution Section; Sales & Archives Section</i>
Shri Deepak Goyal Dy. Secy. (Q-III) 303-4047	<i>Committee Section-I; Questions (One Group)</i>
Shri R.P. Sehrawat, Chief Editor 303-4239	<i>Editorial, Synopsis and Translation Branch</i>

Do you want more information on Rajya Sabha?

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

1. Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.
2. Rajya Sabha At Work.
3. Rajya Sabha Practice & Procedure Series (1-20).

4. Parliament of India : An Introduction.

5. Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees (Rajya Sabha) : An Overview.

These publications can be purchased from the Sales Counter (Rajya Sabha Secretariat), Parliament House Reception Office, New Delhi (Tel : 3034360) and also from the Executive Officer, Sales and Archives Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Room No.002, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi-110001 (Tel. : 3034160).

Information regarding Rajya Sabha is also available on the Internet at

<http://parliamentofindia.nic.in>.

5

International cooperation and inter-parliamentary dialogue

It was a matter of great pride for the country and Rajya Sabha, in particular, that on 16 October 1999, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha was unanimously elected President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Geneva for 1999-2002.

In order to promote understanding among parliamentarians of the world and also put forth India's viewpoint at various fora, 13 Indian parliamentary delegations attended international conferences/meetings in various countries during the year. The other visits were paid by Indian parliamentarians to South Africa, Bangladesh and Tunisia. During this period, a total of 7 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
Visits of Indian Parliamentary Delegations to Foreign Countries
during the year 1999.

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

COUNTRY DATE OF NO. OF PURPOSE NAME OF NAME OF

VISIT DELEGATES OF VISIT R.S. MEMBER LEADER

LS RS

Vienna 22-23 Feb. - 1 IPU- 1st Meeting Dr.(Smt.)

(Austria) 1999 of the Preparatory Najma

Committee of the Heptulla,

Conference of the HDC (RS)

Presiding Officers

of National

Parliaments

Geneva 24-26 Feb. - 1 UNAIDS/IPU- Dr. (Smt.)

(Switzerland) 1999 Meeting of Najma

Working Group Heptulla,

on HIV/AIDS HDC (RS)

and Human

Rights

Brussels 10-16 April 7 3 101st IPU 1.Dr. (Smt.) Shri G.M.C.

(Belgium) 1999 Conference Najma Heptulla, Balayogi,

HDC (RS) Speaker (LS)

2. Shri K.S. Duggal

(Nominated)

3. Dr.(Ms.) P.Selvie Das

(Nominated)

Arles 5-6 July - 1 IPU- Meeting Dr.(Smt.) Najma

(France) 1999 of the Working Heptulla,

Group of the HDC (RS)

Preparatory

Committee of the

Presiding Officers

Of National

Parliaments.

Geneva 13-15 July - 1 IPU Meeting Dr.(Smt.) Najma

(Switzerland) 1999 Heptulla, HDC (RS)

Ulan Bator 26-31 July - 6 Meeting of the

(Mangolia) 1999 Asia-Pacific 1. Dr. (Smt.) Dr.(Smt.)

Group of IPU Najma Najma

Heptulla, Heptulla,

HDC(RS) HDC (RS)

2. Shri K.R. Malkani

(B.J.P.)

3. Shri A.Vijaya Raghavan

(CPI {M})

4. Shri Solipeta R. Reddy

(T.D.P.)

5. Miss Mabel Rebello

(Cong. {I})

6. Shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu

(D.M.K.)

Bad Neuenahr 21-26 August 1999 XIV Globe Inter- Shri S.R Bommai

(Germany) 1999 national General (J.D.)

Assembly and

the Globe/World

Bank Seminar

on Forests

Bonn & 4-7 Sept. - 1 Conference of the Dr. (Smt.)Najma

Berlin 1999 Speakers of European Heptulla,

(Germany) and G-8 Parliaments. HDC (RS)

Rabat 8-9 Sept. - 1 IPU- 2nd Meeting Dr. (Smt.) Najma

(Morocco) 1999 of the Preparatory Heptulla,

Committee of the HDC(RS)

Conference of the

Presiding Officers of

National Parliaments.

Port of Spain 16-23 Sept. 1999 45th

(Trinidad 1999 Commonwealth 1. Shri Bhuvnesh Shri G.M.C.

& Tobago) Parliamentary Chaturvedi Balayogi,

Conference (Cong. {I}) Speaker(LS)

2. Shri Raghavji

(B.J.P.)

3. Shri Kuldip Nayar

(Nominated)

Berlin 10-16 Oct. - 7 102nd Inter- 1. Dr. (Smt.) Dr.(Smt.) (Germany) 1999 Parliamentary Najma Najma

Conference Heptulla, Heptulla,

HDC (RS) HDC (RS)

2. Dr. Y.K. Alagh

(Ind.)

3. Smt. Veena Verma

(Cong. {I})

4. Miss Mabel Rebello

(Cong. {I})

5. Shri O. P Kohli

(B.J.P.)

6. Prof.(Smt.) Bharati Ray

(C.P.I. {M})

7. Shri Drupad Borgohain

(C.P.I.)

Kathmandu 31 Oct. - 5 2 Regional 1. Dr. Gopalrao Dr. S.

(Nepal) 4 Nov.1999 Conference V. Patil (B.J.P.) Venugopala-

of 2. Shri Lachhman chary,

Parliamentarians Singh (Cong. {I}) M.P.(L.S.)

on Health of

the Vulnerable

Population

Chiang Mai 18-24 Nov. 3 2 7th General 1. Shri Ramdas Shri G.M.C.

Province 1999 Assembly Agarwal (B.J.P.) Balayogi,

(Thailand) of the Asia- 2.Shri S.R.Bomma Speaker

Pacific (J.D.) (L.S.)

Parliamentarians

Conference on

Environment and

Development

2. OTHER VISITS

COUNTRY DATE OF NO. OF PURPOSE NAME OF NAME OF LEADER

VISIT DELEGATES OF VISIT RS MEMBER

LS RS

South Africa 8-12 Feb. 8 Study visit of 1.Shri S.B. Chavan Shri S.B. Chavan

1999 Ethics 2.Prof.Vijay Kumar

Committee, Malhotra

Rajya Sabha 3. Shri E. Balanandan

4. Shri Solipeta R. Reddy

5. Shri S.R. Bommai

6. Shri Ram Deo Bhandary

7. Shri Gurdas Das Gupta

8. Shri Jayant Kumar

Malhoutra

Dhaka 8-11 April 5 3 Vist of Deleg. 1.Dr.B.B. Dutta Shri Manoranjan

(Bangladesh) 1999 of India-Bangla- (Nominated) Bhakta,M.P.(LS)

desh Parliament- 2.Shri Dipankar

ary Forum Mukherjee

(C.P.I. {M})

3.Smt. Veena Verma

(Cong. {I})

Tunisia 11-13 August - 1 Women's Day 1.Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla,

1999 Celebrations HDC (RS)

B. Visits of foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India during 1999.

COUNTRY DATES OF VISIT NO. OF DELEGATES NAME OF LEADER

Russia 8-10 February, 1999 19 H.E. Mr. Yegor S. Storev,

Chairman, Federation

Council of Russian

Federation.

Hungary 7-13 March, 1999 10 H.E. Dr. Janos Ader,

Speaker of the National

Assembly of Hungary.

Czech Republic 8-14 March, 1999 13 H.E. Mr. Vaclav Klaus,

M.P., President of the

Chamber of Deputies of

the Parliament of Czech

Republic (Civic Democratic

Party).

Vietnam 13-21 March, 1999 8 H.E. Dr. & Prof. Vu Dinh Cu,

Vice-Chairman of the National

Assembly of Vietnam.

Croatia 27 March to 11 H.E. Mr. Vladimir Seks,

3 April, 1999 Acting President and Vice-

President of the Croatian

Parliament.

Russia 18-22 April, 1999 5 H.E. Dr. Anatoly Ivanovich

Lukyanov, Chairman of the

Committee on Legislations,

Court and Legal Reforms of

the State Duma.

Bangladesh 9-15 August, 1999 7 H.E. Mr. Humayun Rasheed

Choudhury, Speaker of the

Bangladesh Parliament.

Professors and students of Law Centre
Touro College, New York

New initiatives

Computerisation:

The Computer Cell which was set up in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in December 1997 undertook various initiatives in 1999. During the year, this Cell was instrumental in purchasing 55 computers for use of members and 133 computers for use in the Secretariat.

In an effort to increase information availability to members and public, the Rajya Sabha Website was augmented during the year so as to provide upto date information to members, media and the public about the business of the House and the proceedings. As a result of computerisation of the Secretariat, the list of business and bulletins are now available on Internet simultaneously with the printed version. Details regarding legislative and other business transacted are available on the Internet, in addition to the session-wise Resume and session-wise Journal.

A new initiative is the creation of a database of answers to Parliament questions. The database is available with a multiple search facility and can be accessed on the Internet. The information is being received from all the Ministries of Government of India directly by e-mail for inclusion into the database.

Another major initiative during the year was the computerisation of the Reporting System. The parliamentary reporters who transcribe the verbatim proceedings of Rajya Sabha were all provided with computers and multilingual software (LEAP) to enable them to transcribe the uncorrected debates more quickly. The uncorrected debates are being made available on the LAN within the Secretariat and the electronic text of these debates is further utilised by the Editorial Service for preparation of the final version of the debates for printing. Not only is this cutting down the time taken in printing of debates but the printed debates are likely to be available along with free text search facility on the Internet from the year 2000 onwards.

Change of format of the debates:

A decision had also been taken to print the debates in single column A-5 format instead of the double column royal 8VO format to facilitate direct printing of the Camera Ready Copy (CRC) version of the edited debates. The CRC of the floor version of the debates other than Questions and Answers is being prepared by the Editing (English) Section.

Formulation of Code of Ethics:

The Ethics Committee which was constituted on 4 March 1997 had presented its Second Report to the House on 13 December 1999. In its First Report which was presented to the House on 8 December 1998, the Committee mentioned that it would consider in its subsequent reports the procedure for making a complaint to the Committee or taking a matter *suo motu* by it, the mechanism for investigation of a complaint and the question of providing penalties for the violation of the code. In the Second Report, the Committee has made recommendations regarding some of these aspects which include register of members' interests, declaration of interests, procedure for making complaint, procedure for inquiry and penalties. The First and the Second Report of the Ethics Committee were adopted by the House on 15 December 1999.

Portrait Gallery:

Portrait of Shri K.R. Narayanan, President of India and former Chairman of Rajya Sabha was done by Shri Niraj Goswami, an eminent artist. It has been installed in the Inner Lobby of Rajya Sabha Chamber.

Training:

For the first time, an annual training calendar has been prepared by the Training Unit. Some of the major programmes included in it are: orientation programme for newly elected members of Rajya Sabha; computer training programme; training programmes on office procedure, service rules and conduct rules; rules of parliamentary procedures; financial rules; and establishment rules.

Laminated CGHS Card:

It had been decided to provide new laminated Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Cards separately to the members of Rajya Sabha and each member of his/her family. These laminated plastic cards are printed using computerised database information and scanned photographs. Hologram has been provided on each card as a security feature.

Housing for MPs:

To meet the requirement of members, 28 multistoried residential units were constructed at the Dr. B.D. Marg. The complex which was named 'Swarna Jayanti Sadan' was inaugurated on 9 May 1999 by the Prime Minister at a function presided over by the Vice-President of India.

Renovation of Canteens and Remodelling of Rooms:

The canteens in Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe were renovated. In the Parliament House, Lobby Office, Interpreters Section, Legislative Section, Bill Office and Reporters Sections have been remodelled. The work relating to the remodelling of Personnel, Establishment(G) and Members' Salary & Allowances (MS&A) Sections in Parliament House Annexe was also completed during the year.

Parliamentary Pay Committee:

The Committee of Parliament appointed to report on the structure of pay, allowances, leave and pensionary benefit for employees of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariat presented its Report to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 26 April 1999. They have duly accepted the Report.

Passage to Public Gallery

Parliament and the people

There are two Reception Offices located in the Parliament House complex — one near the Parliament House and the other at the Parliament House Annexe. These Reception Offices help visitors to meet Members of Parliament, Ministers and officers of Rajya Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The Reception Offices also issue entry passes to the officials of the Government Ministries coming to Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe in connection with their official work. In the entire year, the two Reception Offices issued 31922 casual entry permits and 138 interview slips.

The Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) System was wound up from 1 April. A Bilingual Integrated Information Display System (BIIDS) Computer was purchased from the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC). Fifty 21" Colour TV sets were purchased for replacing the CCTV System by BIIDS

During the year, 205 general passes, 18 Library passes, 955 Central Hall passes, 104 DVG (diplomatic) annual cards and 508 DVG (diplomatic) daily cards were issued. Also, 1192 Official Gallery passes and 1882 general passes to witness the sessions of Rajya Sabha were issued. Nearly 10930 persons including VIPs, Press Correspondents, officials from various Ministries and Government Departments and the members of the public witnessed the sessions of Rajya Sabha. On the recommendations of Members of Parliament, 1738 visitors were shown round the Parliament House by the Watch and Ward staff.

As in the past, recorded proceedings of the Question Hour in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha were broadcast on AIR during alternate weeks. Assistance was provided to Doordarshan for the live telecast of proceedings of Rajya Sabha. Question Hour is broadcast on the national network live every alternate week. Proceedings are also broadcast live on Low Power Transmitter (LPT) throughout the day from the Parliament House.

A decision was taken in the Committee on Provision of Computers to Members to prepare Video CDs (VCDs) of Rajya Sabha proceedings. These VCDs are available to members, media and the public. While the cost of a VCD is rupees 150/- for the members, it is rupees 200/- for the media and the public. Each VCD covers approximately one hour of proceedings. Proceedings from the 185th session onwards are available.

2

Committees ¶ mini legislatures

*A view
of the
Comm
ittee
Room*

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. There are also 17 Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees each of which has 45 members ¶ 30 from Lok Sabha and 15 from Rajya Sabha. Out of these 17 Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees, 6 function under the direction and control of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. During the year, most of these Committees presented reports. In all 50 reports were presented, out of which 34 were presented by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees which are serviced by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The details of the reports presented by these Committees are given in the Table below. Department-related Committees, however, functioned upto 26 April 1999 only since on dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha, these Committees also stood dissolved.

Table

Reports presented by the Committees of Rajya Sabha **Reports Committee on Subordinate Legislation**

124th (i) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Service Rules, 1991.

- i. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayat Administration) Rules, 1997
- ii. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Grant-in-Aid to Panchayat Raj Institutions) Rules, 1996.
- iii. The Tea Board (write off losses) Rules, 1996.
- iv. The Bank Officer Employees (Conduct) Regulations, 1976.
- v. The Bank (Officers) Service Regulations, 1979.

125th (i) The Coir Board (CCA) Bye Laws, 1969.

(ii) The Rubber Board (Service) Rules, 1961.

- i. The Spices Cess Rules, 1988.
- ii. The Madras Port Trust (General Provident Fund) Regulations, 1997.
- iii. The Mormugao Port Trust Employees (GPF) Regulations, 1964.

126th (i) The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees

(Pay and Allowances) Regulations, 1997.

- i. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees

(Welfare Fund) Regulations, 1990.

- ii. The Coconut Development Board Regulations, 1982.
- iii. The Tobacco Board Rules, 1976.
- iv. The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986.

Reports Committee on Petitions

111th Grant of pensionary benefits to the pre 1986 Bank retirees and not to restrict them only to the post 1.1.1986 retired Bank staff.

112th The conditions of the handicapped persons in the country.

(Interim)

112th The conditions of the handicapped persons in the country.

(Final)

113th Printing of maximum retail price of medicine inclusive of all taxes and uniform sales tax on medicines throughout the country.

114th The need to redefine the term "railway accident" in the Indian Railways Act, 1989 and to create machinery for payment of immediate and adequate financial compensation for injury or death of persons or other losses on railway premises.

Reports Committee on Government Assurances

47th Dropping of Assurances on the request of Ministries/Departments.

48th Payment of statutory dues to workers of Public Sector Undertakings.

49th Preservation of the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari.

Reports Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

69th

- i) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited

- i. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- ii. Dredging Corporation of India Limited

70th

i) Paradip Port Trust, Paradip

- i. Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
- ii. Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore

71st

i) Food Corporation of India

- i. Hindustan Copper Limited
- ii. Andaman & Nicobar Islands Integrated

Development Corporation

- iii. Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai

72nd

i) Central Silk Board.

- i. Spices Trading Corporation Limited
- ii. Indian Institute of Science
- iii. Regional Engineering Colleges.

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce

38th to Demands for Grants (1999-2000)

40^h

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs

50th The Lokpal Bill, 1998

51st The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998

52nd The Notaries (Amendment) Bill, 1997

53rd The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill, 1998

54th to Demands for Grants (1999-2000)

56th

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human

Resource Development

81st Value Based Education

82nd to Demands for Grants (1998-2000)

88th

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry

30th to Demands for Grants (1999-2000)

32nd

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science &

Technology, Environment & Forests

63rd Aspects related to Food Preservation and Safety Measures

64th to Demands for Grants (1999-2000)

70th

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and

Tourism

35th Functioning of Air India

36th The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1998

37th to Demands for Grants (1999-2000)

39th

Report Ethics Committee

2nd Matters relating to the Ethics Committee.

Report Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

1st Issues pertaining to implementation and monitoring of various projects under the MPLAD Scheme.

<p>Rajya Sabha Chamber</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Houseatwork</p> <p>During the year 1999, Rajya Sabha sat for 23 days in the 186th session, 6 days in the 187th session and 19 days in the 188th session. The 186th session was divided into two spells – from 22 February to 19 March and then from 15 April to 23 April. The House sat for longer than the normal 5 hours on 24 days and without lunch break on 2 days.</p> <p>Summons for the 186th session of Rajya Sabha was issued on 25 January 1999. The session that commenced on 22 February adjourned <i>sine die</i> on 23 April 1999 following the defeat of the Government in Lok Sabha. The budget session of Rajya Sabha commenced with an address by the President to the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall on 22 February. The thirteenth Lok Sabha was constituted on 10 October 1999 and summons for the 187th session was issued on 15 October. The session commenced on 21 October and was adjourned <i>sine die</i> on 29 October 1999. The President addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall on 25 October 1999. Summons for the 188th session was issued on 8 November 1999. The session commenced on 29 November and adjourned <i>sine die</i> on 23 December 1999.</p> <p>During the year under review 90 lists of business were issued with regard to the business of the House. In all 3188 papers were laid on the Table of the House. During the year 7 divisions were held. The total reporting work in respect of the sittings of the House came to 203 hours and 47 minutes. The various Parliamentary Committees including the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees accounted for a total of 177 hours and 12 minutes of reporting</p>
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	<p>work.</p> <p>There is provision of simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings of the House and its Committees. In addition to providing interpretation of the entire proceedings of the House from Hindi to English and <i>vice-versa</i>, arrangements, at present, 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 interpretation was provided in the meetings of all Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees and also other Committees of Rajya Sabha during the year.</p> <p>The average attendance of members during the 186th session came to 179. It was 169 during the 187th session and 163 during the 188th session. The highest attendance on a day during the 186th session was 198. It was 185 during the 187th session and 183 during the 188th session.</p>
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Question Hour:

The first hour of every sitting is generally devoted to the asking and answering of questions. It is a period when members exercise their right to seek information from Ministers on the floor of the House. Question Hour is also used by members to criticise the policies and programmes of the government and to ventilate public grievances.

During the 186th and 188th sessions, question time was allotted for 38 and 19 days, respectively. During the 187th session, there was no Question Hour. In 1999, the total number of notices received for the starred and unstarred questions came to 15340, out of which 6329 were admitted. Out of the 779 starred questions, 131 questions were orally answered by Ministers which comes to about 16.8 per cent of the total number of starred

questions admitted. During the year, 2 statements were made and 1 statement was laid by Ministers concerned correcting the replies given by them to the questions in Rajya Sabha. For the short notice questions, 7 notices were given by members out of which only 1 notice was admitted. Out of 24 notices received from members for half-an-hour discussion, only 4 notices were admitted for discussion.

Legislation:

During 1999, Rajya Sabha had 48 sittings in all. Out of the total sittings held, the House transacted the Government legislative business on 29 days while the Private Members' legislative business was transacted on 3 days. Four Bills, 1 introduced in Lok Sabha and the other 3 introduced in Rajya Sabha were referred to the concerned Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee for examination and report. Besides, 3 bills, 1 introduced in Rajya Sabha and the other 2 introduced in Lok Sabha were referred to the Joint Committees of the Houses. The Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1999, as passed by Lok Sabha was referred to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha.

The year witnessed some important legislative developments. For example, the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1999 seeking to extend reservation for persons belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe categories was passed by the House during the 187th session and referred to the Legislatures of the States for ratification as per the requirement under article 368 of the Constitution. After ratification

The following are interesting facts about Bills:

? Number of sittings during which the Government Bills were

introduced, considered or laid/ reported as passed by Lok

? Number of sittings during which the Private Members' :
Bills were introduced or considered.

? Number of Government Bills introduced. : 19

? Number of Private Members' Bills introduced.

? Number of Government Bills withdrawn/fallen through : 00

? Number of Private Members' Bills withdrawn.

? Number of Government Bills transmitted by Lok Sabha.
32*

? Number of Bills transmitted by Rajya Sabha.

? Number of Government Bills introduced in Rajya Sabha
03

and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committees.

? Number of Government Bills introduced in Lok Sabha and ref
to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees

? Number of Bills referred to the Select Committees of Rajya S
01

? Number of Bills referred to the Joint Committees of the
03@

Houses of Parliament.

? Number of Government Bills considered, passed/returned
35
by Rajya Sabha.

? Number of Government Bills pending at the commencement
: 36
of the year.

? Number of Government Bills pending at the end of the year.
42

? Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the commencen
136
of the
year.

Number of Private Members' Bills pending at the end of the ye

Number of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President.

Number of Bills on which assent of the President was obtained by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

* Three Bills as passed by Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha in 1998, could not be considered by Rajya Sabha as these Bills were due to dissolution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

@ Rajya Sabha joined the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 and the Protection of Plants Variety Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999 which were introduced in Lok Sabha and referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committees by Lok Sabha.

^ Including six Money Bills which could not be considered by Rajya Sabha and were deemed to have been passed by the Houses of Parliament in accordance with the provisions of article 109 (5) of the Constitution.

by one-half of the State Legislatures the Bill has been assented to by the President. Similarly, during the 188th session, Government brought forward legislations on different subjects, namely, the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Bill, 1999; the Trade Marks Bill, 1999; the Copyright Bill, 1999 and the Designs Bill, 1999 to mention a few to meet the international obligation arising out of its agreement with WTO.

Discussion on matters of urgent public importance:

Legislation, no doubt, is an important function of a legislature but no less important is the function of ventilation of public grievances which is performed by Rajya Sabha in an effective manner. There are procedural devices like 'special mention', 'calling attention', 'short

duration discussion' and 'no-day-yet-named motion' available to members to raise matters of urgent public importance on the floor of the House. In all 64 matters of urgent public importance (special mentions) were mentioned in the House. There were 132 notices of calling attention to matters of urgent public importance received, out of which the following 4 were discussed in the House:

- i. The disinvestment of Government shares in the Gas Authority of India Limited at a price lower than the best possible price;
- ii. The situation arising out of non-payment of wages and salaries to the employees of several public sector undertakings;
- iii. The plight of Soyabean growers and Soyabean processing industry in the country following the crash in prices; and
- iv. The Naxalite activities in the country.

During the year, 137 notices of short duration discussion were received out of which the following 8 matters were taken up in the House:

- i. The issues raised by the former Advisor to the Finance Minister and the alleged improprieties arising thereof;
- ii. The havoc caused by the recent cyclone-floods in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other parts of the country;
- iii. The recent steep hike in Diesel price and the consequent hardships being faced by the people;
- iv. The unprecedented super cyclone which devastated coastal districts of Orissa on 29-30 October 1999 and to declare it as national calamity and the relief and rehabilitation measures;
- v. The 3rd Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation held at Seattle, U.S.A. and the statement made by the Minister of Commerce and Industry on 8 December 1999;
- vi. The disinvestment policy of the Government;
- vii. The National Telecom Policy; and

- viii. The procurement procedures in the Ministry of Defence and their effect on national security.

Details of time taken on various matters in each of the 3 sessions is given in the accompanying table.

Table

Time taken by Rajya Sabha on various items of business during the

186th, 187th and 188th Session.

Subject Time Taken

	186th Hrs./Mts.	187th Hrs./Mts.	188th Hrs./Mts.
Oath or Affirmation	-	0-07	0-04
Motion of Thanks on the President's Address	18-59	11-45	-
Questions	11-49	-	17-41
Short Notice Questions	-	-	0-10
Statements by Minister Correcting Answers to Questions	-	-	0-12
Papers laid on the Table	0-22	0-06	0-30
Reports/Statements of the Committees presented/laid on the Table	0-30	0-07	0-07
Statement regarding Ordinances	0-01	-	0-01
Question of Privilege	-	0-08	-

Announcement by Chair	0-01	-	-
Announcement regarding the Leader of the House	-	0-01	-
Resignation by Members	-	0-02	-
Leave of absence	0-02	-	0-04
Felicitations to Deputy Chairman (on her unanimous election as President of the IPC)	-	0-26	-
Messages from Lok Sabha/ Government Bills laid on the Table	0-09	0-02	0-16
Motions for Elections/Appointments of Members to various Committees/Bodies	0-04	-	0-11
Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee	0-05	0-01	0-04
Statements regarding Government Business	0-06	-	0-04
Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance	-	-	7-31
Special Mentions	0-36	2-21	8-26
Statements, etc. by Ministers	4-12	1-20	4-15
Short Duration Discussion (Discussions under Rule 176)	8-35	5-31	16-10
Budget – General Discussion	0-29	-	-
Government Resolution	0-01	-	-
Statutory Resolution	1-29	-	0-41

Government Legislative Business	8-12	5-00	30-54
Private Members' Business	1-29	-	2-28
- Private Members' Resolutions	4-56	-	2-28
- Private Members' Bills			
Half-an-Hour Discussions	-	-	3-18
President's Address laid on the Table	0-01	0-01	-
Budget laid on the Table	0-03	-	-
Supplementary Demands for Grants – laid on the Table	0-02	-	0-02
Good wishes to the retiring members of the House	-	0-01	0-04
Motions regarding the First and Second Reports of the Ethics Committee	-	-	2-58
Reference to victims of cyclone in Orissa	-	0-02	0-02
Reference regarding soldiers martyred in Kargil	-	0-01	-
Reference to completion of fifty years of Constitution	-	-	0-03
Reference to victims of air crash	0-02	-	-
Reference to victims of fire accident	0-02	-	-
Reference regarding earthquake in several parts of north India especially Garhwal region	0-02	-	-

Resolution on the International Women's Day	0-03	-	-
Others*	7-45	2-40	6-14

Total: 70-07 29-42 104-58

Others include: National Anthem, Obituary References, Valedictory Remarks, Welcome to new Members, Introduction of Prime Minister and New Ministers, National Song and Points Raised, etc.

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Houseatwork

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*Rajya Sabha
Chamber*

Summons for the 186th session of Rajya Sabha was issued on 25 January 1999. The session that commenced on 22 February adjourned *sine die* on 23 April 1999 following the defeat of the Government in Lok Sabha. The budget session of Rajya Sabha commenced with an address by the President to the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall on 22 February. The thirteenth Lok Sabha was constituted on 10 October 1999 and summons for the 187th session was issued on 15 October. The session commenced on 21 October and was adjourned *sine die* on 29 October 1999. The President addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall on 25 October 1999. Summons for the 188th session was issued on 8 November 1999. The session commenced on 29 November and adjourned *sine die* on 23 December 1999.

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	<p>of interpretation was provided in the meetings of all Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees and also other Committees of Rajya Sabha during the year.</p> <p>The average attendance of members during the 186th session came to 179. It was 169 during the 187th session and 163 during the 188th session. The highest attendance on a day during the 186th session was 198. It was 185 during the 187th session and 183 during the 188th session.</p>
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Question Hour:

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The following are interesting facts about Bills:

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? Number of sittings during which the Private Members' : 03
Bills were introduced or considered.

? Number of Government Bills introduced. : 19

? Number of Private Members' Bills introduced. : 20

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? Number of Private Members' Bills withdrawn. : 02

? Number of Government Bills transmitted by Lok Sabha. : 32*

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and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committees.

? Number of Government Bills introduced in Lok Sabha and referred : 01
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Number of Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President. : 49^

Number of Bills on which assent of the President was obtained by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. : 16

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Questions	11-49	-	17-41
Short Notice Questions	-	-	0-10
Statements by Minister Correcting Answers to Questions	-	-	0-12
Papers laid on the Table	0-22	0-06	0-30
Reports/Statements of the Committees presented/laid on the Table	0-30	0-07	0-07
Statement regarding Ordinances	0-01	-	0-01
Question of Privilege	-	0-08	-
Announcement by Chair	0-01	-	-
Announcement regarding the Leader of the House	-	0-01	-
Resignation by Members	-	0-02	-
Leave of absence	0-02	-	0-04
Felicitations to Deputy Chairman (on her unanimous election as President of the IPC)	-	0-26	-
Messages from Lok Sabha/ Government Bills laid on the Table	0-09	0-02	0-16
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Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee	0-05	0-01	0-04
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President's Address laid on the Table	0-01	0-01	-
Budget laid on the Table	0-03	-	-
Supplementary Demands for Grants – laid on the Table	0-02	-	0-02
Good wishes to the retiring members of the House	-	0-01	0-04
Motions regarding the First and Second Reports of the Ethics Committee	-	-	2-58
Reference to victims of cyclone in Orissa	-	0-02	0-02
Reference regarding soldiers martyred in Kargil	-	0-01	-
Reference to completion of fifty years of Constitution	-	-	0-03
Reference to victims of air crash	0-02	-	-
Reference to victims of fire accident	0-02	-	-
Reference regarding earthquake in several parts of north India especially Garhwal region	0-02	-	-
Resolution on the International Women's Day	0-03	-	-
Others*	7-45	2-40	6-14

Total: 70-07 29-42 104-58

Others include: National Anthem, Obituary References, Valedictory Remarks, Welcome to new Members, Introduction of Prime Minister and New Ministers, National Song and Points Raised, etc.