

6Secretariat

The total staff strength of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat during the year remained at 1016, out of which 274 persons were holding group `A` posts. There was no retirement on superannuation in the Secretariat during the year.

The budget estimates of the Secretariat during the year 1998-99 were kept at rupees 38 crores and 15 lakhs.

The Distribution Section of the Secretariat received 8642 communications and worked throughout the year, even on Sundays and holidays. The total dispatches made by the Section during the year came to 168993.

The translation work of the Secretariat was undertaken by the Editorial and Translation Service. The work of the Service involved editing of debates, preparation of indices to debates, providing translation of papers and documents including lists of business, questions lists, etc. In order to promote the use of Hindi in the Secretariat, the Raj Bhasha Prabhag was created in the year 1997 which was quite active during the year 1998.

The Printing and Publications Service handled a large volume of printing work which emanated from the Secretariat. The total number of pages got printed during the year by this Service came to 49117 pages.

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

Table

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

Main responsibilities

Name,designation & official telephone nos.	Responsibility

<p>Shri R.C. Tripathi Secretary-General</p> <p>303-4695</p> <p>301-7355</p>	<p><i>Parliamentary-Adviser to the Hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha and through him to the House.</i></p> <p><i>Administrative-Head the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha and overall in charge of all administrative and executive functions on behalf and in the name of the Chairman.</i></p>
<p>Shri Satish Kumar Joint Secretary</p> <p>303-4204; 301-2592</p>	<p><i>Questions;Deptt. related Committees: Committee on Industry ; Committee on Commerce; Committee on Tansport & Tourism ; Committee on Home Affairs; Committee on Human Resource Development; and Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests.</i></p> <p><i>Establishment Administration- Estt.(Gen),Estt.(A/cs), M.S. & A.; Pay and Accounts office.</i></p>
<p>Shri S. Vijay Kumar Joint Secretary</p> <p>303-4604; 301-1328</p>	<p><i>Matters relating to the Business of the House: Table office, Notice office, Bills, Legislation, etc.; House Committees: Business Advisory Committee; Rules; Privileges; General Purposes; Ethics; Subordinate Legislation; Petitions; Government Assurances; Papers Laid; Provision of Computers to Members; Computerisation; Training.</i></p>
<p>Shri R. Srinivasan Joint Secretary</p> <p>303-4733; 379-3651</p>	<p><i>Reporting Service: Preparation and publication of the verbatim reports of the Proceedings of each sitting of the Rajya Sabha and of the proceedings of the Parliamentary Committees; Liaison with Doordarshan and AIR for telecast of proceedings.</i></p> <p><i>Interpretation Service;</i></p> <p><i>Editorial, Synopsis and Translation Service.</i></p>

<p>Smt. Vanaja N. Sarna</p> <p>Director (A)</p> <p>303-4206; 379-3377</p>	<p><i>Administration: Personnel, Establishment (Gen), Establishment (A/Cs), General Administration, Stores, Conference & Protocol Section: Tours of Parliamentary Delegations; Presiding Officers Conferences; Conferences concerning I.P.U. and Commonwealth; Stores.</i></p>
<p>Shri N.C. Joshi</p> <p>Director (R&L)</p> <p>303-4532; 301-8620</p>	<p><i>Research & Library Section: The Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS).</i></p> <p><i>Ethics Committee; Printing and Publications Service: Publication of Parliamentary papers, Bills; WHO/ S WHO of Members of Rajya Sabha, Debates and their indices, etc.</i></p>
<p>Shri R.C. Goel</p> <p>Director (I)</p> <p>303-4456</p>	<p><i>Interpretation Service: Simultaneous interpretation during the proceedings of each sitting of the Rajya Sabha and of the Parliamentary Committees</i></p>
<p>Shri H.K. Chanana</p> <p>Director (Q)</p> <p>303-4530; 301-2550</p>	<p><i>Questions:O&M Section; Distribution Branch;</i></p> <p><i>Sales & Archives: Sale of Rajya Sabha publications, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Record room</i></p>
<p>Shri Tapas Das Gupta</p> <p>Director (MA)</p> <p>303-4057; 379-4328</p>	<p><i>M.A Section: Provision of amenities and facilities to Members as per norms, including accommodation, telephones, etc. Committee on MPLADS and House Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Computer Cell, Training Unit:</i></p>
<p>Shri L. Srirama Murty</p>	<p><i>Reporters' Branch</i></p>

Director (R) 303-4137	
Smt. Vandana Garg Director (HRD) 303-4212	<i>Committee on HRD</i>
Shri Tapan Chatterjee Dy. Secy. (HA) 303-4187	<i>Committee on Home Affairs</i>
Shri Sham Sher Singh Dy. Secy. (L) 303-4693	<i>Legislative- Processing of notices for Calling Attention, Short Duration Discussion, Resolutions, Motions, Special Mentions and Zero Hour Submissions. Also Committee on Rules and Committee of Privileges.</i> <i>Bill Office: Legislative work relating to Bills.</i> <i>Watch & Ward; Committee on Government Assurances</i>
Shri G.C. Miglani D.S. (Q-I) 303-4557	<i>Questions; Committee on Petitions, General Purposes Committee:, Election/Nomination of Members to Joint Committees, Statutory Bodies, etc.</i>
Shri S.C. Agarwal D.S.(Q-II) 303-4201	<i>M.S.&A: Matters concerning Salaries and Allowances to Members and Pension to Ex-members, Issue of Identity Card-cum-railway pass to Members, Joint Committee on Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament.</i>

<p>Smt. Agnes Momin George</p> <p>D.S.(E)</p> <p>303-4240</p>	<p><i>Establishment(Gen.)Section: Budget of the Rajya Sabha; Estt.(A/Cs) Section; Committee on Transport and Tourism</i></p>
<p>Shri P.R. Guha Roy</p> <p>DS (P)</p> <p>303-4201</p>	<p><i>Personnel section; Welfare officer; Committee on Papers Laid</i></p>
<p>Shri Surinder Kr. Watts</p> <p>DS (C.Comm)</p> <p>303-4262</p>	<p><i>Committee on Commerce</i></p> <p><i>Questions (Gp.III &V)</i></p>
<p>Shri S.K. Ganguli</p> <p>DS (T)</p> <p>303-4668</p>	<p><i>Notice office: Notices and papers from Members in connection with the business of the House, Applications for visitors passes, Issue of vehicle parking labels and the passes for Press, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Table Office: Lists of Business, Parliamentary Bulletins, making arrangements for oath/affirmation, preparing obituary and other references, election of the President/Vice President of India and the Deputy Chairman and matters pertaining to election of Members, etc. and matters relating to Business Advisory Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Lobby Office: Attendance of Members, applications for leave of absence, Video recording of proceedings, general upkeep of the Rajya Sabha Chamber, Committee rooms, Chambers of Chairman and Deputy Chairman in Parliament House Complex.</i></p>

Shri OD Sharma DS (D) 303-4475	<i>O&M Unit; Joint Committee on the Wakf Boards.</i>
Shri Deepak Goyal DS (Q-III) 303-4047	<i>Questions and Com. on Subordinate Legislation</i>
Shri R.P. Sehrawat, Chief Editor 303-4239	<i>Editorial, Synopsis and Translation Branch: - Editing of Debates in English and Hindi; Synopsis of the daily proceedings of the House in English and Hindi; Translation from English to Hindi or vice-versa of Questions, Motions, Resolutions, Bulletins, Lists of Business, Bills, Committee Reports, etc.</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/reports can be purchased from the Sales Counter(Rajya Sabha Secretariat), Parliament House Reception Office, New Delhi (Tel : 3034 360) 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>.

International cooperation and inter-parliamentary dialogue



In order to promote understanding among Parliamentarians of the world and also put forth India's viewpoint at various fora, Indian parliamentary goodwill delegations visited 4 countries during the year and 6 delegations attended international seminars/conferences. The other visits were paid by Indian parliamentarians to USA, UK, France, Finland and Italy. During this period, a total of 8 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 to Foreign

Countries during the year 1998

1. GOODWILL DELEGATIONS

Country	Dates of visit	No. of Delegates	Name of R.S. Member	Name of the Leader
		LS RS		

Turkey	27 June – 1 July, 1998	5 2	1. Syed Sibtey Razi (Cong.I) 2. Prof. Ram Baksh Singh Verma, (BJP)	Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Speaker, Lok Sabha
Iraq	20- 26 August, 1998	4 2	1. Mohd. Azam Khan (SP) 2. Shri M.A. Kadar (DMK)	-do-
Morocco	7 – 12 October, 1998	5 2	1. Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, (TMC) 2. Shri Manavvar Hasan (SP)	-do-
Russia	12 –17 November, 1998	5 2	1. Shri Suresh A. Keswani (Ind.) 2. Shri K.M. Saifullah, (TDP)	-do-

2. INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Country	Dates of visit	No. of Delegates LS RS	Purpose of visit	Names of R.S. Members	Name of the Leader
Madrid (Spain)	16-17 January, 1998	- 1	Seminar on More Women in Local Body Positions	Ms. Saroj Khaprade	-
Wind- hoek	6-10 April, 1998	5 2	99 th IPU Conference	1. Sh. S.M. Krishna, Cong.(I)	Sh. G.M.C. Balayogi, Speaker, Lok

(Nami- bia)				2. Sh. Narain Prasad Gupta, (BJP)	Sabha
Moscow (Russia)	6-12 Septem- ber, 1998	7 3	100 th IPU Conference	1. Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla, HDC(RS) 2. Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, (CPI-M) 3. Shri Rumandla Ramachan- draiah (TDP)	-do-
Guilin (China)	14-18 October, 1998	3 1	6 th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Parlia- mentarians' Conference on Environment & Development	1. Shri S.R. Bomma, (JD)	Shri S.R. Bomma
Wellington (New Zealand)	16-23 October, 1998	6 2	44 th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference	1. Shri John F. Fernandes (Cong.I) 2.Smt. Malti Sharma (BJP)	Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Speaker, Lok Sabha
Rome (Italy)	29 Nov. - 2 Dec., 1998	1 1	Specialized I.P. Conf. on 'Attaining the	Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla,	-

	World Food Summit's Objectives through a Sustainable Development Strategy'.	HDC(RS)
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3. OTHER VISITS

Country	Dates of visit	No. of Delegates LS RS	Purpose of visit	Name of R.S. Member	Name of the Leader
Boston (USA)	29-30 April, 1998	1	First Annual Summit of the Council of Women World Leaders.	Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, HDC (RS)	
UK, France, Finland & Italy	10 - 24 May, 1998	- 7	Study visit of Ethics Committee, RS	1. Sh. S.B. Chavan, 2. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra 3. Shri G. Swaminathan 4. Shri S.R.	Shri S.B. Chavan

				Bomma	
				5. Shri S.R. Reddy	
				6. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta	
				7. Shri Jayant Kumar Malhoutra	
New York (USA)	23 - 30 October, 1998	- 1	UN Day Celebrations and IPU Meetings for Parliamentarians	Dr.(Smt.) Najma Heptulla, HDC (RS)	-

B. Visits of foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India during the year 1998

Country	Dates of visits	No. of Delegates	Name of the Leader
DPRK (North Korea)	7-12 April, 1998	5	H.E. Mr. Hyong Sop, Speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly of DPRK (North Korea)
Russia	13-16 September, 1998	7	H.E. Mr. Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, Chairman, State Duma Com. on Inter-national Affairs.
France	15-18 September, 1998	10	H.E. Mr. Laurent Fabius,

			President of the French National Assembly and Former Prime Minister of France.
Kuwait	27 September – 1 October, 1998	7	H.E. Mr. Talal Mubarak Al-Ayyar, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of the State of Kuwait.
Finland	13-19 November, 1998	12	H.E. Mr. Mikko Pesala, Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament.
Japan	23-26 November, 1998	9	H.E. Mr. Kozo Watanabe, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan.
Mongolia	28 November - 4 December, 1998	14	H.E. Mr. R. Gonchigdorj, Chairman of the State Great Hural of Mongolia.
Portugal	15-22 December, 1998	9	H.E. Dr. Antonio De Almeida Santos, President of the National Assembly of Portugal.

4

New initiatives



A Computer Cell was set up in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in December 1997. During the year, this Cell was instrumental in purchasing 170 computers and the same number of printers for use of Members. The Cell also purchased 74 computers and 65 printers for use in the Secretariat. During the year, Rajya Sabha web page was created and the following items were put into it:

- Part-II Bulletin (important items from 20 October, 98)
- List of Parliamentary Committees, their composition, rules, list of reports and list of bodies on which Rajya Sabha is represented.
- Rajya Sabha publications including Rules of Procedure, **Rajya Sabha at Work**, Directions by the Chairman, etc.
- **Who's Who-Rajya Sabha**, biographical sketches, names, addresses and telephone numbers of Members of Rajya Sabha, etc.

The Computer Cell deals with the following items of work :

- ? Preparation of Annual Plans for computerisation and to ensure coordinated implementation.
- ? Coordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC) and various Sections of the Secretariat for preparation and implementation of the softwares for use of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.
- ? Purchase of hardware and software items as per requirements of the Secretariat.
- ? Laying down a training policy for staff and monitor its implementation.
- ? Purchase, allotment and distribution of Computers and other accessories to Members of Rajya Sabha. Coordinating with NIC for giving Internet/E-mail connections to Members and looking after their complaints (both hardware and software).

Committees – mini legislatures

*A view of the
Committee
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 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 their reports. In all 82 reports were presented out of which 53 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:

Table

Reports presented by the Committees of Rajya Sabha

Reports Committee on Subordinate Legislation

116th Gender Discrimination in Legislative Drafting.
117th Counting of Past Service for Pensionary Benefits on Mobility of Employees between Central Government Departments and Central and State Autonomous Bodies and *vice-versa*.
118th Recovery of Debts due to the Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules made thereunder.
119th The Oil Mines Regulations, 1984.
120th The Petroleum Rules 1976, OISD Standards and Related Areas.
121st The Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959 made thereunder.
122nd (i) The Recruitment Rules in respect of employees of the Office of the Development Commissioner, (Handicrafts) ¶ implementation of 85th Report.

(ii) Framing of Rules under the National Commission of Minorities Act, 1992.

(iii) The Central Silk Board General Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1984.

(iv) The Tea Rules, 1954 ¶ Implementation of recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation as contained in its 100th Report.

(v) The Hooghly Docking and Engineering Company Ltd. (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1984 ¶ framings of rules under the Act.

(vi) The Central Civil Service Family Pension Scheme, 1964.

123rd (i) The Industrial Development Bank of India (Employees' Provident Fund) Regulations, 1981.

(ii) The Oil Industry (Development) Rules, 1975.

(iii) The Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1989.

(iv) The National Dairy Development Board Officers (Conduct, Discipline and Appeal) Regulations, 1988.

(v) The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1993.

Reports Committee on Petitions

106th Improper use of funds meant for poverty alleviation programmes leading to starvation deaths in the undivided districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput in Orissa.

107th Payment of full claim by the LIC arising out of double accident benefit policies in cases where death/permanent disability takes place after 120 days of the accident.

108th The problems being faced by the fruits and vegetable growers in the country.

109th Grant of legal costs and interest on the claims filed by the nominees of the deceased policy holders in cases where *ex-gratia* payments are made by the LIC to such nominees and suitably amending the provisions relating to the computation of the limitation period.

110th The problems of the persons displaced due to the setting up of the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL).

Reports Committee on Government Assurances

44th Bungling in Banks.

45th Loans by Public Sector Banks to Farmers.

46th Law to protect agricultural labourers and amendments in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Reports Committee on Papers Laid on the Table

57th i) State Bank of Mysore

ii) Vijaya Bank

iii) Canara Bank

iv) Corporation Bank

v) Syndicate bank

vi) Indian Bank

vii) Indian Overseas Bank.

58th i) Spices Trading Corporation Limited

ii) Mangalore Port Trust

iii) Hindustan Teleprinters Limited

iv) Tamil Nadu Agro-Industries Limited.

59th i) Steel Authority of India Limited

ii) IRCON International Limited.

60th Matters pertaining to the delayed appointment of Statutory Auditors of the Government Companies/Organisations.

61st i) Chemicals and Allied Products Exports Promotion Council

ii) Damodar Valley Corporation

iii) Balmer Lawrie Limited

iv) IBP Company Limited

v) Biecco Lawrie Limited

vi) Oil India Limited

vii) Assam Agro-Industries

viii) North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation

62nd i) Cochin Shipyard Limited

ii) Lakshadweep Development Corporation

iii) Cochin Port Trust

iv) Coir Board

v) Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited

vi) Cochin Refineries Limited

vii) Marine Products Export Development Authority

63rd i) Mumbai Port Trust

ii) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

iii) Life Insurance Corporation of India

iv) General Insurance Company

v) New India Assurance Company

vi) Shipping Corporation of India

64th i) Semi-Conductor Complex Limited.

ii) Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation

65th i) Indian Airlines

ii) Air India

iii) Airports Authority of India

66th i) Mahangar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

ii) India Tourism Development Corporation

67th i) United India Assurance Co. Ltd.

ii) Chennai Port Trust

iii) Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Ltd.

iv) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

68th i) National Fertilizers Limited

ii) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Commerce

32nd to Demands for Grants (1998-99)

34th

35th India and the WTO

36th Development Potential of Commerce in the North Eastern Region

37th Powerloom, Handloom and Handicrafts Sectors.

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs

41st The High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1998

42nd The Lotteries (Regulation) Bill, 1998

43rd to Demands for Grants (1998-99)

45th

46th The Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1997

47th The Marriage laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997

48th The Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1998

49th The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human

Resource Development

64th to Demands for Grants (1998-99)

70th

71st Problem of Drop-outs

72nd Adult Education

73rd Dreaded Diseases.

74th Vocational Education.

75th Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 49th Report of the Committee on the Functioning of the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

76th Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 52nd Report of the Committee on the Functioning of the National Library, Calcutta.

77th Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 34th Report of the Committee on India's Performance in International Sports.

78th Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 30th Report of the Committee on the Functioning of the Central Government Health Scheme.

79th Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 51st Report of the Committee on the Functioning of the National Institute of Homeopathy, Calcutta.

80th Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 53rd Report of the Committee on the Functioning of the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur.

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry
23rd to Demands for Grants (1998-99)

25th
26th Action Taken by the Ministries of Steel, Mines and Industry on the 17th Report of the Committee.

27th Action Taken by the Ministry of Steel on the 18th Report of the Committee.

28th Action Taken by the Ministry of Mines on the 19th Report of the Committee.

29th Action Taken by the Ministry of Industry on the 20th Report of the Committee.

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests

53rd to Demands for Grants (1998-99)
59th

60th Action Taken by the Department of Biotechnology on the recommendations contained in the 54th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Biotechnology.

61st Action Taken by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research on the recommendations contained in the 56th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

62nd Action Taken by the Department of Electronics on the recommendations contained in the 58th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Department of Electronics.

Reports Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Transport and Tourism
31st to Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Ministry of Tourism.
33rd

34th The Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998.

Report Ethics Committee
1st Framework of Code of Conduct for Members of Rajya Sabha
and related matters.

3

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 and Departments coming to Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe in connection with their official work. In the entire year, the two Reception Offices issued 31293 casual entry permits and 195 interview slips.

During the year, 114 general passes, 20 library passes, 1065 Central Hall passes, 114 DVG (diplomatic) annual cards and 626 DVG (diplomatic) daily cards were issued. Also, 6059 Official Gallery passes and 2913 general passes to witness the sessions of Rajya Sabha were issued. Nearly 20630 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, 1973 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.

A proposal received from M/s. ECIL for upgradation of CATV System in Rajya Sabha sector was agreed. The material concerning upgradation was supplied by M/s. ECIL. The project involved additional cabling both in Parliament House and Annexe. The cabling was done by CPWD. The upgradation would provide addition of more channels. The upgradation of the system was completed in Parliament House and was in progress in Parliament House Annexe. During the year, 12 new colour T.V. sets have been installed in various rooms of Rajya Sabha sector to see the live proceedings of the House.

1

House at work

During the year 1998, Rajya Sabha sat for 6 days in the 183rd session, 35 days in the 184th session and 18 days in the 185th session. The 184th session was divided into two spells. The first spell was between 27 May and 12 June and the second spell was between 3 July and 4 August. The House sat for longer than the normal 5 hours on 43 days and without lunch break on 5 days.

Rajya Sabha Chamber

Summons for the 183rd session of Rajya Sabha was issued on 21 March. The session that commenced on 25 March adjourned *sine die* on 2 April. The interim 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 25 March. Summons for the 184th session was issued on 29 April. The session commenced on 27 May and was adjourned *sine-die* on 4 August. Summons for the 185th session was issued on 20 October. The session commenced on 30 November and adjourned *sine die* on 23 December.

During the year under review 115 lists of business were issued with regard to the business of the House. In all 4658 papers were laid on the Table of the House. During the year 5 divisions were held. The total reporting work in respect of the sittings of the House came to 368 hours and 24 minutes. The various Parliamentary Committees including the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees accounted for a total of 271 hours and 38 minutes of reporting work. At present arrangement exists for simultaneous interpretation into English/Hindi of the speeches made in Hindi, Urdu, English, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil and Telugu. The facility of interpretation from these languages is also available during the Question Hour. Besides, simultaneous interpretation facilities were provided for the 145 meetings of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees and other Committees. The average attendance of members during the 183rd session came to 181. It was 174 during the

184th session and 175 during the 185th session. The highest attendance on a day during the 183rd session was 198. It was 205 during the 184th session and 196 during the 185th session.

Consequent on the expiration of the term of office, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla ceased to be the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha with effect from 4 July. Accordingly, the office of the Deputy Chairman fell vacant. The election to fill the vacancy was held on 9 July. The first motion moved by Dr. Manmohan Singh and seconded by Shri Pranab Mukherjee for the election of Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha was put to the House and the Motion was adopted. The Chairman declared that Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla had been chosen as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha .

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 183rd session, there was no Question Hour. During the 184th and the 185th sessions, question time was allotted for 31 and 18 days, respectively. The total number of notices received in 1998 for the starred and unstarred questions came to 16730, out of which 8515 were admitted. Out of 980 starred questions, 193 questions were orally answered by Ministers which comes to about 19.6 per cent of the total number of starred questions admitted. During the year, 2 statements were made and 8 statements were laid by Ministers concerned correcting the replies given by them in Rajya Sabha in reply to starred questions. For the short notice questions 6 notices were given by Members but none was admitted. Out of 19 notices received from Members for half-an-hour discussion, only 5 notices were admitted for discussion.

Legislation:

Out of a total of 59 sittings in 1998, the House devoted itself to the Government legislative business on 42 days and the Private Members' legislative business on 5 days. There were 11 Bills, as introduced in Rajya Sabha, which were referred to the Department-related

Parliamentary Standing Committees and 4 Bills, as introduced in Lok Sabha, were referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees functioning under the direction and control of the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, which was introduced in Lok Sabha, was referred to the Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament during the 184th session. Some of the important Bills which originated in Rajya Sabha and were passed by it include the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill and the Patents (Amendment) Bill.

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. During the year, Members resorted to the use of the special mention, calling attention and short duration discussion procedures to raise matters on the floor of the House. In all 189 matters of urgent public importance (*special mentions*) were mentioned in the House. There were 312 notices of *calling attention* to matters of urgent public importance received out of which the following 9 were discussed in the House:

Situation arising out of suicides committed by farmers in different parts of the country due to crop failure and their indebtedness to private money lenders and the action taken by Government in regard thereto; failure of a large number of non-banking financial institutions all over the country to return public deposits amounting to over Rs. 50,000 crores and the action taken by Government in regard thereto; steep rise in inflation and its adverse impact on the economy and the people; situation arising out of widespread violation of labour laws leading to non-payment of wages, default in the payment of provident fund dues and other statutory dues; threat of American terminator seeds to Indian agriculture; NAV of US-64 and status of other Schemes of Unit Trust of India affecting lakhs of small investors; reported decision of the Government to close down eight central public sector undertakings; alarming situation due to cracks in railway lines in different parts of the country and the resultant train accidents; and revival of sick units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. and

Fertilizer Corporation of India.

During the year, 110 notices for *short duration discussion* were received out of which the following 7 were taken up in the House:

Recent nuclear tests in Pakistan; alarming deterioration in the power and water supply in the country; grave situation arising out of increase in subversive activities in the North Eastern region of the country; dismissal of the Government of Goa; functioning of WTO and participation of India in the international trade negotiations; current economic situation and its implications on various aspects of Indian economy; and sugar policy.

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 183rd, 184th and 185th sessions

Subject
Time taken

183 rd	184 th		185 th		
Hrs./Mts.	Hrs./Mts.		Hrs./Mts.		
<hr/>					
Oath or Affirmation					0
0	1	1	15	-	
Motion of Thanks on the President's Address					17
56	-	-	-	-	
Questions					-
	28	46	16	48	
Statements by Ministers Correcting Answers to Questions					-
	0	14	0	06	-

Papers laid on the Table					0
05	0	42	0	24	
Reports/Statements of the Committees presented/laid on the Table					0
11	0	34	0	28	
Statement regarding Ordinances					0
01	0	03	0	01	
Presentation of Petition					- -
	0	01	-	-	
Question of Privilege					- -
	0	02	-	-	
Announcement by Chair					- -
	0	01	-	-	
Announcement regarding the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition					0
02	-	-	-	-	
Resignation by Members					0
02	0	02	-	-	
Leave of Absence					- -
	0	03	0	02	
Election of Deputy Chairman					- -
	0	05	-	-	
Felicitations to Deputy Chairman					- -
	0	57	-	-	
Messages from Lok Sabha/ Government Bills laid on the Table					0
02	0	20	0	14	
Motions for Elections/Appointments of Members to various Committees/Bodies					- -
	0	28	0	12	
Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee					0
02	0	08	0	03	
Statements regarding Government Business					- -
	0	20	0	04	

Subject Time taken

183rd	184th	185th
Hrs./Mts.	Hrs./Mts.	Hrs./Mts.

Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance	--
10 35 9 12	
Special Mentions	1
26 31 37 11 21	
Statements etc. by Ministers	2
58 18 52 14 48	
Discussions on the working of the Ministries	- -
19 17 - -	
Short Duration Discussions (Discussions under Rule 176)	- -
20 52 9 12	
Budgets - General Discussions	3
05 23 38 - -	
Government Motions	- -
8 40 5 46	
Government Resolution	- -
0 02 0 02	
Government Legislative Business	1
01 31 48 22 56	
Private Members' Business	
- Private Members' Resolutions	- -
8 05 -	
Private Members' Bills	- -
7 30 4 55	
Half-an-Hour Discussions	- -
7 41 - -	
President's Address Laid on the Table	0
01 - - - -	
Supplementary Demands for Grants Laid on the Table	0
01 - - 0 02	
Good wishes to the retiring members of the House	2
41 - - - -	
Reference to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights	- -
- - 0 02	
Felicitations to Prof. Amartya Sen	- -
- - 0 01	
Motions regarding the First Report of the Ethics Committee	- -
- - 0 05	
Reference to Victims of Tornado	0
01 - - - -	
Reference to victims of Cyclonic Storm in Gujarat and Rajasthan	- -

0	02	-	-	
Reference regarding Train accident at Khanna Railway Station in Punjab				- -
-	-	0	01	
Ruling by Chair				- -
-	-	0	04	
Apology by Member				- -
-	-	0	07	
Personal Explanation				- -
-	-	0	03	
Others*				2
56	11	49	4	24
<hr/>				
Total:				32
32	234	29	101	23
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Others include: National Anthem, Obituary References, Valedictory Remarks, Welcome to new Members, Introduction of Prime Minister and new Ministers, National Song and Points Raised.

CHAPTER 2

Preface

In this report an attempt has been made to present some interesting information about Rajya Sabha, its Committees and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. We have only given the factual information without much analysis. The purpose of this publication is to familiarise readers with some aspects of the functioning of Rajya Sabha. There is a lot of activity which goes on behind the scenes when the House is sitting. The personnel of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat work silently without much public notice to assist Rajya Sabha deliberate meaningfully on issues before it.

I had discussed the issue of bringing out a publication of this nature with Shri S. Vijay Kumar, Joint Secretary, after seeing some of such reports published in other countries. He had further conceptualised the idea and discussed the matter with Shri N.C.Joshi, Director in the Research and Library Service and asked him to prepare the report. This report is largely based on the Annual Report (1998) of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat brought out earlier by the O&M Section comprising inputs received from different Sections of the Secretariat. However, to provide an overview of the functioning of Rajya Sabha, the Resume of the relevant sessions of Rajya Sabha, brought out by the Table Office and other relevant documents have also been consulted.

The idea behind bringing out a publication of this nature is to provide information in a nutshell on the performance of Rajya Sabha and its Secretariat during the year 1998.

I hope Members of Parliament as well as the general readers would find this publication interesting. Suggestions for improvement are most welcome.

New
Delhi

R.C.TRIPATHI

August
1999

Secretary-General,

Rajya Sabha.