

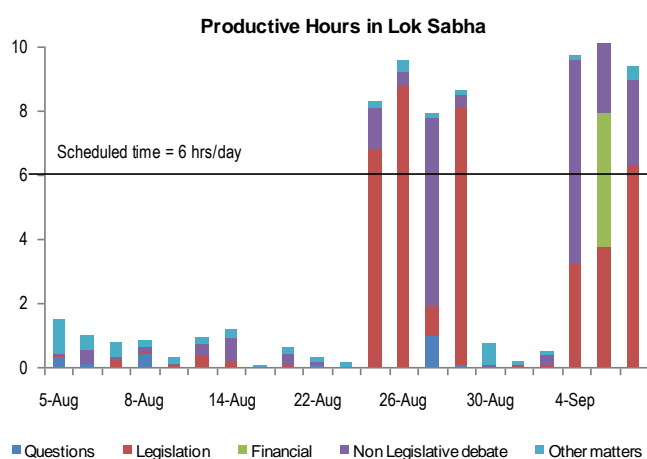
Vital Stats

Parliament in the Monsoon Session 2013

The Monsoon Session ended with the passage of Bills on food security, land acquisition, companies, and pension. During the session, significant time was lost due to frequent disruptions over issues such as statehood for Telangana, missing files related to the allocation of coal blocks, border security issues with Pakistan and China, and the current economic situation of the country. The session also witnessed the suspension of a few MPs for disrupting the proceedings of Parliament.

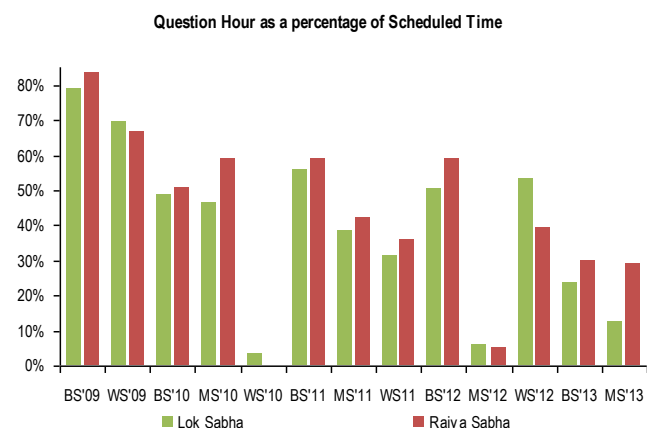
Parliament had initially planned 16 sittings, but decided to extend the session for an additional five days in Lok Sabha and six days in Rajya Sabha. Here is a snapshot of work done during the 21 days of the Session.

Productive time in Lok Sabha was 58%; 80% in Rajya Sabha



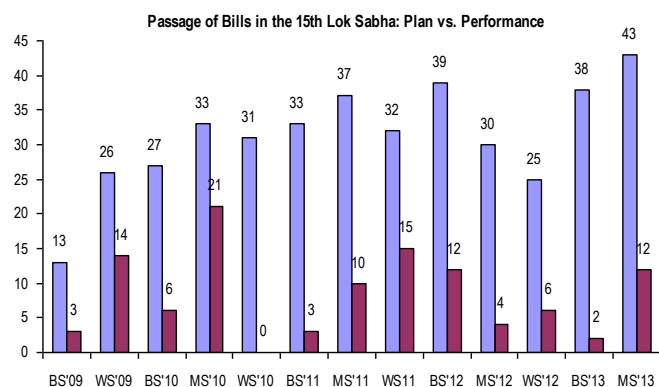
- Total productive time in Lok Sabha was only 58% of the scheduled time. On 12 days, Lok Sabha sat for less than one hour. Total productive time in Rajya Sabha was 80% of the scheduled time.
- Of the total productive time in Lok Sabha, 53% was spent on discussing legislation, 31% on non-legislative debates, and 16% on other matters, including question hour. Comparatively, Rajya Sabha spent 44% on legislation, 39% on non-legislative debates, and 17% on other matters, including question hour.
- Both the Houses attempted to make up the time lost by sitting till late on several days. Lok Sabha sat beyond 10 PM on four days and Rajya Sabha sat till 11 PM on two days.
- 12 MPs were suspended by the Speaker in Lok Sabha on August 23 for disrupting the proceedings of the House. Of these, nine MPs were suspended again on September 2. On each occasion the MPs were suspended for five sittings.

Question Hour was disrupted on all days, but one in Lok Sabha



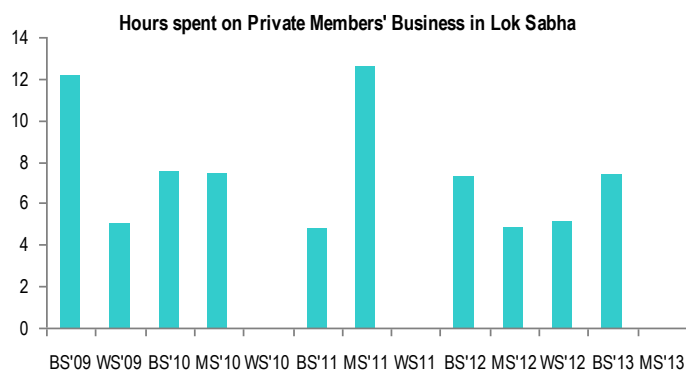
- Question Hour continues to be a major casualty to disruptions. For both the Houses, this was the third worst session for Question Hour since the beginning of the 15th Lok Sabha. Time lost during Question Hour was not made up during the additional sittings days in both the Houses.
- Question Hour was conducted for only 13% of the scheduled time in Lok Sabha and 29% of the scheduled time in Rajya Sabha.
- A total of 300 questions were scheduled to be answered orally in each House. However, in Lok Sabha only 11 were answered, and no questions were answered on seven days.
- In Rajya Sabha, only 28 questions were answered orally, and none were answered on four days.

Of the 43 Bills listed for passing this session, 12 Bills were passed



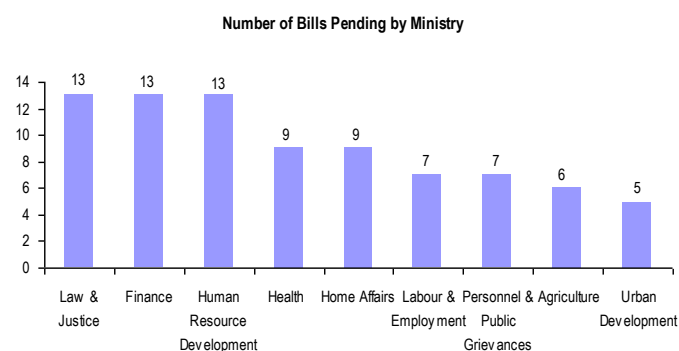
- The discussion on the Food Security Bill was the longest in both the Houses, lasting more than nine hours in each House.
- The Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University Bill, 2013 was the only Bill to be passed without any discussion in the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha discussed the Bill for an hour.
- The government introduced 24 Bills, out of which 5 Bills were not part of the legislative agenda stated at the beginning of the session. These include two Bills that permit persons in custody to contest elections and, allow MPs and MLAs to retain their membership of the legislature till their appeal against the conviction is pending. Two Bills providing for the Judicial Appointments Commission, and the Delhi Rent (Repeal) Bill, were also introduced.
- Several Ordinances were introduced as Bills during this session but could not be passed. These include Bills amending Securities Laws, the Indian Medical Council Act, and the Readjustment of Representation of SCs and STs in Parliamentary and Legislative Constituencies Act.

No Private Members' Business was conducted in Lok Sabha; Rajya Sabha devoted 2 hours



- In Lok Sabha, two and a half hours of sitting time on every Friday are generally allotted for transaction of Private Members' Business, i.e., Private Members' Bills and Private Members' Resolutions.
- This is the third session since the beginning of the 15th Lok Sabha where no Private Members' Business was conducted in Lok Sabha.
- Till now, 372 Private Members' Bills have been introduced in Lok Sabha. Of these, 11 Bills have been discussed.
- Rajya Sabha also did not discuss any Private Members' Bills but spent 2 hours discussing Private Members' Resolutions. Of the 226 Private Members' Bills introduced in Rajya Sabha, so far only 17 have been taken up for discussion.

123 Bills are pending in Parliament at the end of the Monsoon Session



- The Ministry of Law and Justice, Finance and Human Resource Development have 13 Bills each pending in the Parliament, the highest of all ministries.
- Bills pending in the finance sector include the Goods and Services Tax, Direct Taxes Code, and Insurance Laws.
- Several Bills impacting higher education are currently pending in Parliament. These Bills address Educational Tribunals, Universities for Research and Innovation, Unfair Practices, Regulation of Foreign Education Institutions.

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