

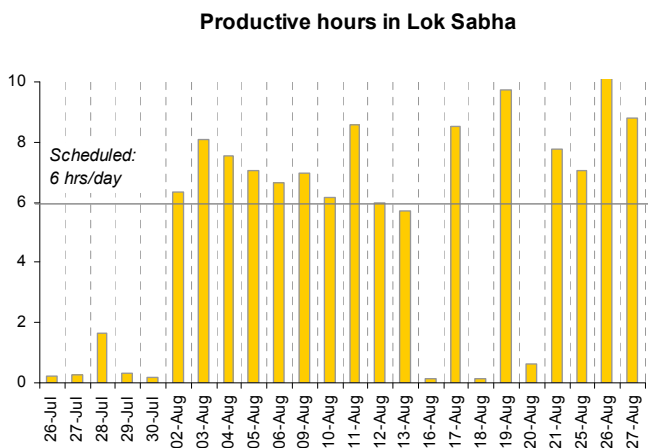
# Vital Stats

## Parliament in Monsoon Session 2010

The Monsoon Session of Parliament ended on August 31, 2010, after it was extended by two days. Though both Houses lost significant amount of time due to disruptions, they made up much of the lost time by sitting late and working for two extra days.

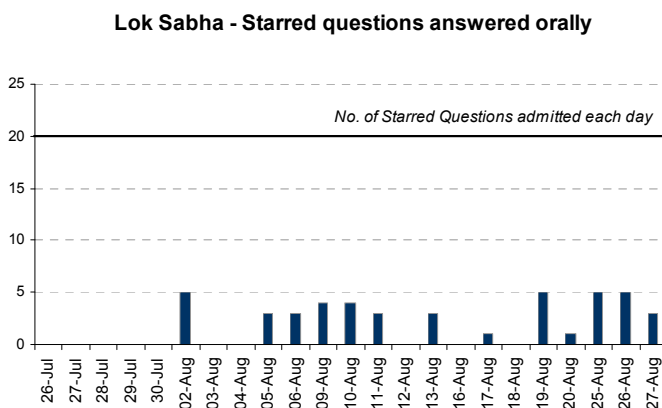
Two Bills, the nuclear liability bill and the MP salary bill, saw significant public discussion. Parliament also discussed some issues of national importance such as price rise, commonwealth games, Bhopal gas tragedy, and the situation in Kashmir.

### On 8 out of 26 days, Lok Sabha met for less than 2 hrs



- Parliamentary work was disrupted on several days as some MPs sought to raise issues that they considered important. Much of the lost time was compensated for by sitting late and working two extra days.
- At the aggregate level, both Houses managed to make up for lost time. Total productive time in Lok Sabha was 136 hours, 94% of scheduled time. Rajya Sabha registered a productive time of 120 hours, 100% of scheduled time.
- The main reason for loss of time in the first week was the demand of the opposition for an adjournment motion on the issue of price rise. Such a motion is voted upon, and if passed, is considered as censure against the government. Finally, the issue was discussed as an ordinary motion without voting.
- Apart from legislation, both Houses saw debates on issues like inflation, petroleum price hike, Commonwealth Games, the judicial pronouncement in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and the ongoing protests in Kashmir.

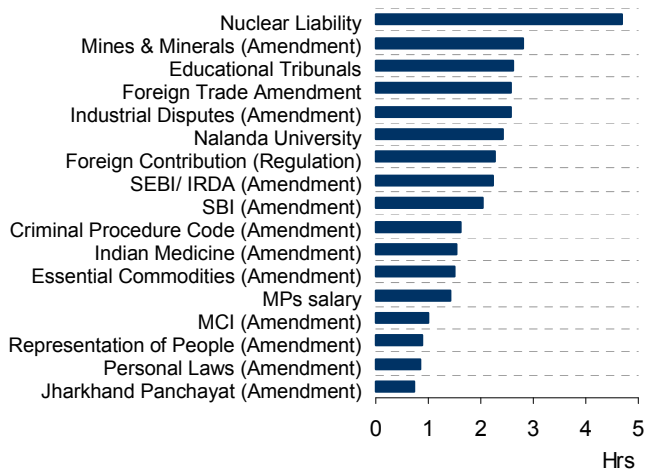
### Question Hour in Lok Sabha disrupted on 11 days; only 10% questions answered orally



- The Question Hour was a major casualty to disruptions. Whereas the Houses sat late on several days to make up for lost time, they did not compensate for the time lost during Question Hour.
- In Lok Sabha, no questions were answered orally on 10 days; the corresponding figure for Rajya Sabha was 9 days.
- Twenty starred questions are listed every day; if the House functions normally, five to six are answered orally in one hour – that is 25% - 30% of the listed questions. During this session, 10% of all listed questions were answered orally in Lok Sabha, and 17% in Rajya Sabha.

## 47% Bills in Lok Sabha passed under 2 hours

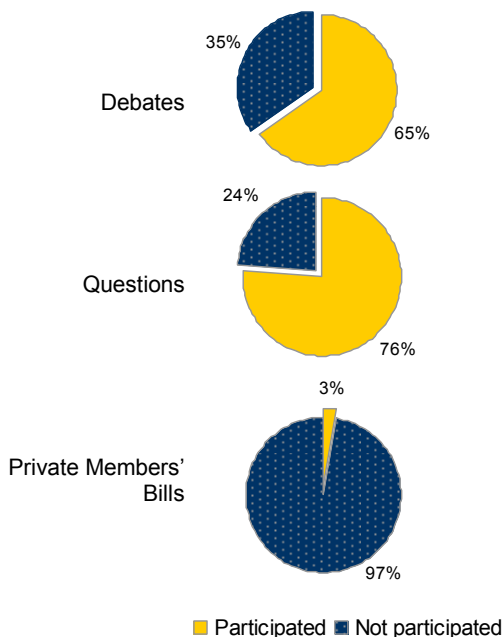
**Bills passed by Lok Sabha**



- The government had planned to introduce 35 Bills this session; it introduced 23. Of the 33 Bills planned to be passed, 21 were passed.
- Lok Sabha passed 17 Bills, with average 2.0 hours spent per Bill. Rajya Sabha spent relatively more time in deliberating each Bill. It passed a total of 21 Bills and devoted an average of 2.3 hours per Bill.
- The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage was the most discussed Bill in both Houses. The debate in Lok Sabha saw participation from 20 MPs and lasted 4.7 hours. 25 MPs expressed their views in Rajya Sabha and the discussion lasted 5.1 hours.

## 64 MPs in Lok Sabha did not participate in the deliberations of the House

**Participation of MPs by activity**



- MPs participate in Parliament primarily through debates, questions and private members' bills.
- MPs participate in debates related to legislation as well as other national issues. They may also raise issues during zero hour. We classify all these interventions as 'debates'.
- MPs hold the government accountable by asking 'Questions' during Question hour. In addition, all private members, i.e., MPs who are not ministers, may introduce legislative proposals called Private Members' Bills.
- The Speaker and Deputy Speaker do not take ask questions or participate in debates. Ministers represent the government. Of the remaining 479 MPs in Lok Sabha, 64 MPs (13%) did not participate in any of these three activities. The figure was similar for Rajya Sabha - of the 229 such MPs, 34 (15%) did not participate in any activity.
- 35% MPs in Lok Sabha did not participate in any debate, 24% did not ask any question and 97% did not put forward any private members' bill.
- Participation in Rajya Sabha registered a similar pattern. The percentage of MPs who did not participate was: debates (28%), questions (34%), private members' bills (96%).

### Notes:

1. The analysis is based on data obtained from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites.
2. All debates data is up to date till 30<sup>th</sup> August 2010, except Special Mentions on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of August.

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