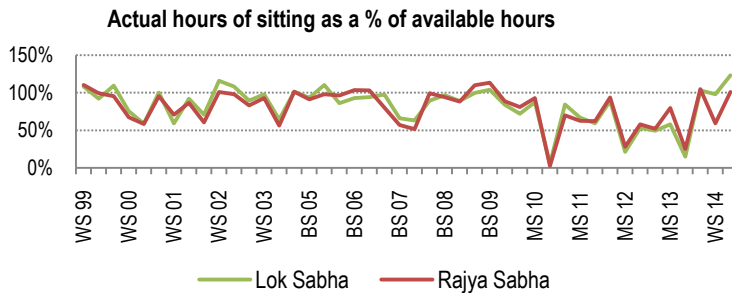


Vital Stats

Parliament functioning in Budget Session 2015-16

During the second Budget session of the 16th Lok Sabha, Parliament discussed the Union and Railway Budgets. While several Bills were passed in this session, MPs raised the need for referring Bills to Standing Committees for greater examination. While overall productivity was high, both Houses witnessed disruptions on issues of farmer suicides, food parks, and a CAG audit report on renewable energy financing. This note analyses the functioning of Parliament during this session and compares it with data over the past years.

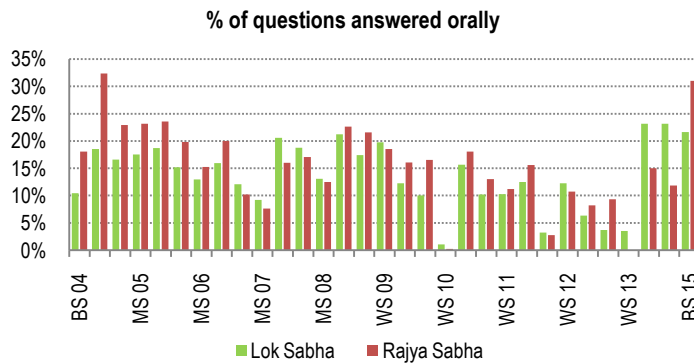
This was Lok Sabha's most productive session in the past 15 years



Notes: BS - Budget Session, MS - Monsoon Session, WS - Winter Session

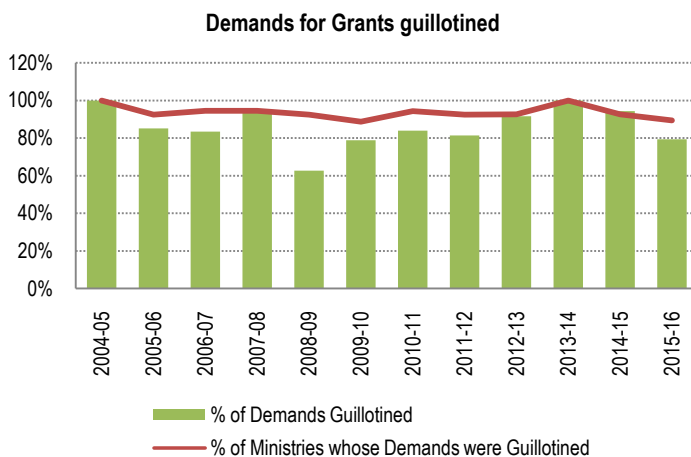
- During this session, Lok Sabha worked for 123% of its scheduled time, while Rajya Sabha's productivity was at 101%.
- This has been Lok Sabha's most productive session in the last 15 years.
- Rajya Sabha's productivity this session (101%) was among one of its most productive sessions in the last 15 years.

A well functioning question hour contributed to high productivity



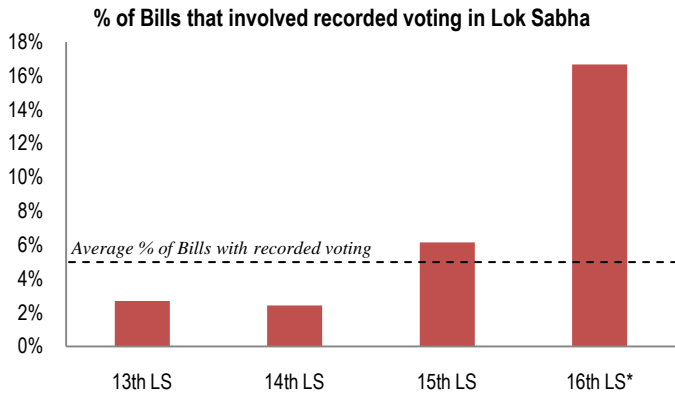
- In Rajya Sabha, 31% of scheduled questions were answered orally. This is the highest percentage of questions answered orally since past 10 years.
- In Lok Sabha 22% of questions were answered orally, which was consistent with the percentage from the last two sessions.
- About 134 and 135 questions were answered orally in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively. Typically, in the last 10 years, the average has been 64 questions in Lok Sabha and about 70 in Rajya Sabha.

About 80% of the demands for grants were passed without discussion



- Lok Sabha discussed the demands for grants of six ministries. The ministries discussed, account for 21% of the expenditure budget, and address allocations to Human Resource Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Home Affairs, etc.
- Rest of the demands (79%) were guillotined i.e. put to vote without discussion. In the past 10 years, on average, about 87% of the demands for grants were guillotined each year.
- Each budget session, Rajya Sabha discusses the working of selected ministries. On average, over the last 10 years, Rajya Sabha has discussed the working of about four ministries each year. This year, Rajya Sabha had listed five ministries for discussion, but could only discuss two.

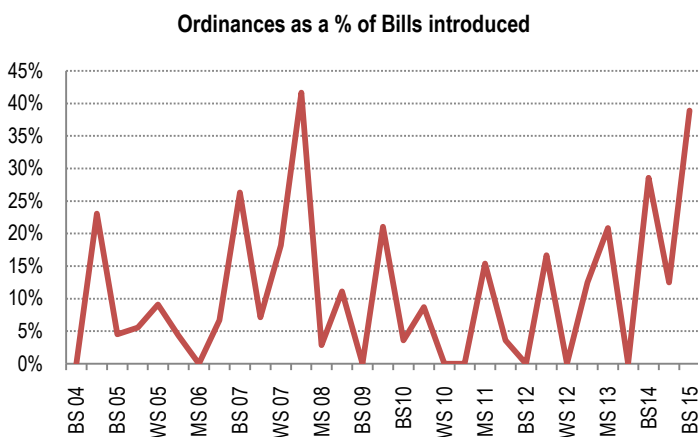
Instances of recorded voting has been highest in the past 15 years in Lok Sabha



Notes: Does not include Constitutional amendments.
 * Bills passed so far in 16th Lok Sabha.

- This session saw the highest instances of recorded voting in the past 15 years.
- Typically Bills are passed by voice vote in Parliament. Division i.e. recording of votes is mandatory only for Bills amending the Constitution. However when a Bill is being passed, MPs can request the Speaker for a division.
- So far, in the 16th Lok Sabha, 17% of the Bills have been passed by recorded voting. On average, in the past 15 years, each Lok Sabha saw about 5% of the Bills being passed by recorded voting. These do not include Constitutional amendments.

More than one third of Bills introduced this session were Ordinances



- In this session, Bills replacing Ordinances were 39% of the total Bills introduced. In the last 10 years, the other instance when Ordinances had a high share of the Bills introduced was in Budget session 2008, when the ratio was 42%.
- On average, in the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha, Bills replacing Ordinances were 11% and 8% of the total Bills introduced, respectively.
- Bills replacing Ordinances this session addressed insurance, coal mines, mines and minerals, citizenship, Andhra Pradesh reorganisation, and land acquisition. Of these Bills, five were passed and the Land Acquisition Bill (Ordinance promulgated twice) was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Other highlights of the session

- After many years, an amendment to the Motion of Thanks for the President’s Address was passed in Rajya Sabha. The motion expressed regret that the government has not taken any steps to curb corruption and black money.
- The Budget session of Parliament began on February 23, 2015 and broke for a three week recess on March 20, 2015. During the session recess, the Land Acquisition Ordinance was repromulgated, after Rajya Sabha was prorogued on March 28, 2015. After 28 years, an Ordinance was promulgated after proroguing a House while Parliament was in session. There have been only six such instances in the past.
- In the last 47 years, no Private Member Bill has been passed by either House. In this session, a Private Member Bill moved by Mr. Tiruchi Siva, the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014, was passed unanimously by Rajya Sabha.

Data Sources: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites as on May 12, 2015.

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