

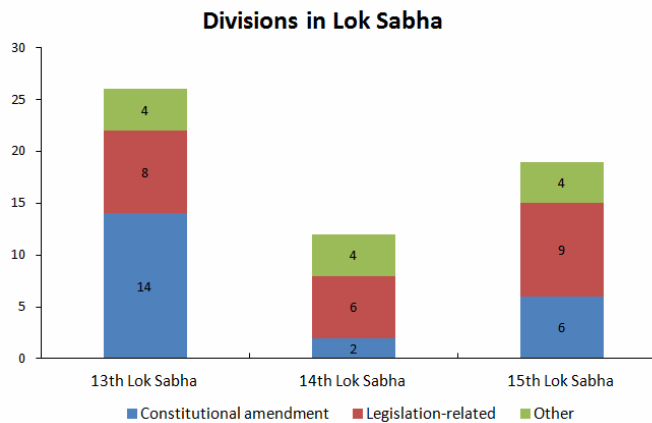
# Vital Stats

## Parliament in Winter Session 2012

The first half of the Winter Session of Parliament, 2012 was dominated by disruptions over and discussion on the government's notification to allow 51% FDI in the retail sector. The issue was finally discussed in Parliament under Rule 184, a first in the 15th Lok Sabha. The Session closed with the passing of the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, the Constitutional (118th Amendment) Bill and discussions on the incident of rape reported in the capital.

Here we look at some data on the business transacted during the session.

### Recorded voting was held on various occasions, Lok Sabha conducted 5 Divisions



- Any motion in the House is decided by means of voting on a question put by the Chair. Those in favour of the motion are invited to say 'Aye' and those against to say 'No'. The Chair decides the majority but if the opinion of the Chair is challenged, a Division is called for.
- A Division records the vote of each member. Recorded voting is mandatory only in the case of Bills amending the Constitution.
- In Lok Sabha this session, voting by Division was conducted on 5 instances. Two of these were on Constitutional Amendments, two on Bills and one on issue-based discussions.
- Overall in the 15th Lok Sabha, there have been 19 instances of Division: 6 on Constitutional Amendments, 9 on Bills and 4 on non-legislative issues. The 14th Lok Sabha had 12 instances of Division; the Rajya Sabha in the same period did not conduct any voting by Division. The 13th Lok Sabha witnessed 26 Divisions.

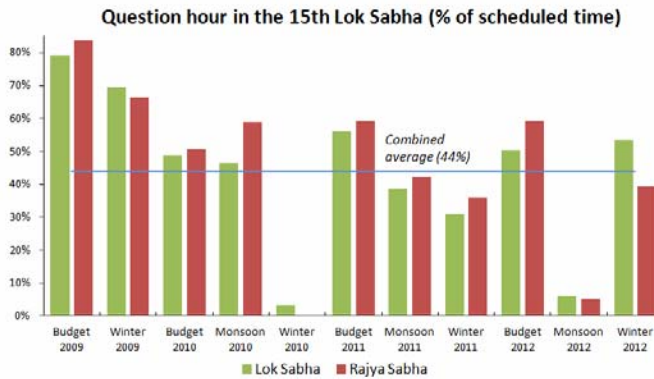
### 84 members spoke on the motion on FDI in retail in Lok Sabha

**Table: Participation in debates (number of members)**

| Issue   | LS | RS |
|---|----|----|
| Reported lobbying of Wal-mart                 | 30 | 5  |
| Incident of gangrape in Delhi                 | 27 | 35 |
| 51% FDI in retail and notification under FEMA | 84 | 33 |

- The discussion on the motion to disapprove of the government's decision to allow 51% FDI in the retail sector was conducted under Rule 184 of the rules of procedure of Lok Sabha. Rule 184 entails voting at the end of the discussion of the motion.
- 84 members spoke on the issue in the Lok Sabha and 33 in the Rajya Sabha. The discussion lasted for over ten hours in each House.
- Short duration discussions conducted under Rule 193 do not entail voting. This session, Lok Sabha discussed the issue of reported lobbying by Wal-mart, the recent incident of gang-rape in Delhi and removal of the cap on subsidy on LPG cylinders among other issues.

### Question Hour in Rajya Sabha functioned for only 39% of allotted time



- In Lok Sabha, Question Hour was held on 11 of 20 days. 49 of 400 starred questions were answered orally. In Rajya Sabha, Question Hour was held on only 8 of 20 days. Only 43 of 400 starred questions were answered orally.
- The Chairman of Rajya Sabha expressed concern over the continued disruption of Question Hour and referred the matter to the Rules Committee to examine possible reform or rescheduling of Question Hour.
- In the Budget Session of 2011, Question Hour in Rajya Sabha was shifted from 11AM to 2PM, in order to improve its functioning. During this period, the average duration of Question Hour increased from 27 minutes to 43 minutes.

### Of 25 Bills listed for passing, six were passed. Eight new Bills were introduced

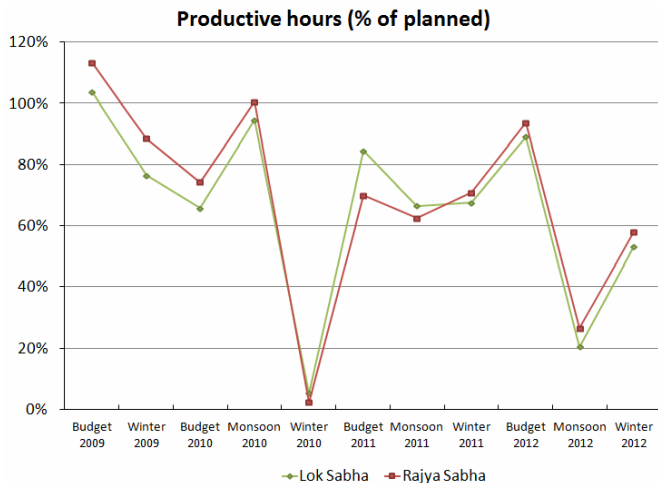
Table: Time spent on Bills passed by the House (H:M)

| Bill#  | LS    | RS    |
|--|-------|-------|
| The Prevention of Money-Laundering (Amendment) Bill                                      | 02:53 | 01:42 |
| The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill                                      | 02:18 | 04:20 |
| The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amendment) Bill*        | 02:49 | 01:20 |
| The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill*   | 03:26 | 01:20 |
| The Constitution (One Hundred-Eighteenth Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 371j) | 01:05 | 01:23 |
| The Companies Bill   | 03:38 | --    |
| The Constitution (One Hundred Seventeenth Amendment) Bill                                | --    | 05:46 |
| The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill                                  | --    | 00:46 |

# Bill names may not be the exact title; \*discussed together in Rajya Sabha

- At the beginning of the session, the government had listed 25 pending Bills for consideration and passing. Six of these were passed by both Houses.
- Additionally, the Rajya Sabha passed the Constitutional Amendment to provide for Reservations for SCs and STs for promotions in government jobs. The Bill is pending with Lok Sabha. The Lok Sabha also passed the Companies Bill, 2011 which stands to be cleared by Rajya Sabha.
- Eight new Bills were listed for introduction during the session. These include the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill that introduces new provisions related to acid attacks as well as sexual assault.
- At the end of the session, 104 Bills remain pending before Parliament.

### Nearly half the planned time in both Houses was lost to disruptions



- Productive time in Lok Sabha was 53% of scheduled time i.e. 63 of 120 hours. Productive time in Rajya Sabha was 58% of scheduled time; 58 of 100 hours.
- Both Houses were frequently disrupted over the issues of FDI in retail, reports of lobbying by Wal-mart and the Bill to provide for reservations for promotions in government jobs.

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