

# Vital Stats

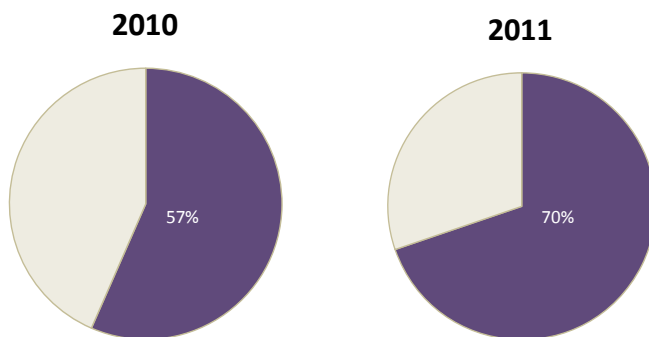
## Parliament in 2011

The year in Parliament was characterised by frequent disruptions and protests over a host of issues. The issue of the establishment of a Lokpal prompted both disruption as well as intense debate.

We look at the business transacted by Parliament during 2011.

### 30% of the available time in 2011 was lost to disruptions

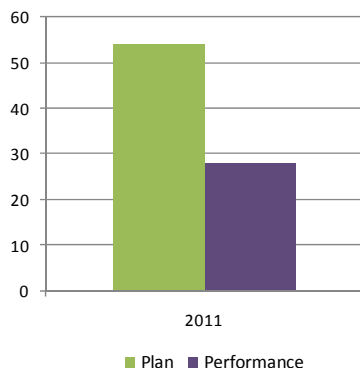
Productive time in Lok Sabha



- During 2011, Parliament sat for a total of 73 days. Since Lok Sabha is scheduled to sit for 6 hours and Rajya Sabha for 5 hours, this means an available time of 438 hours for Lok Sabha and 365 hours for Rajya Sabha. Of the available time, approximately 30% time was lost to disruptions in Lok Sabha and 35% in Rajya Sabha.
- Both the Budget and the Monsoon Session had been disrupted on the issue of corruption. In addition, Monsoon Session was disrupted due to the agitation led by Anna Hazare and the appointment of the Gujarat Lokayukta by the Governor.
- The recently concluded Winter Session saw disruptions on issues such as the opposition’s call for an adjournment motion on price rise, the issue of FDI in retail, Telangana and Mullaperiyar.
- However, despite the lost time, Parliament fared better than in 2010 when an entire session was lost to disruptions.

### 54 Bills listed for consideration and passing; 28 actually passed\*

Bills passed - Plan v/s Performance



- During the three sessions, the government had listed 54 Bills (some repeatedly) for consideration and passing.
- By the end of the Winter Session, Parliament passed 28 Bills (some not in the above list).
- Presently, 97 Bills are pending in Parliament. Some of the pending Bills are the Lokpal Bill, the Judicial Accountability Bill, the Land Acquisition Bill, the Direct Taxes Code, the Constitutional Amendment to bring in Goods and Services Tax, the UID Bill and several Bills on higher education.
- Some of the important Bills that were passed during the year include The Constitution (111th Amendment) Bill that adds provisions for cooperatives to the Constitution, and the Transplantation of Organs (Amendment) Bill.

\*Does not include Finance and Appropriation Bills

## In Lok Sabha, 18% of the Bills were passed in less than 5 minutes

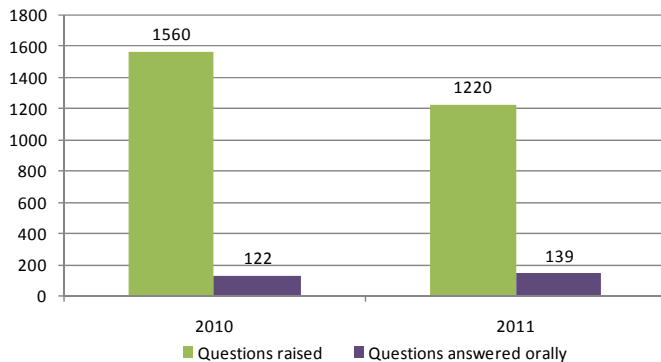
**Table: Time spent on Bills in Lok Sabha (2011)**

Time spent	Bills passed	Percentage of total Bills passed
>3 hrs	7	21%
2-3 hrs	8	24%
1-2 hrs	6	18%
30 min - 1 hr	2	6%
5 - 30 min	5	15%
< 5 min	6	18%

- During the year, there were some Bills that saw detailed discussion. The Lokpal Bill was debated in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for approximately 12 hours each. Though the Bill was passed by Lok Sabha and discussed in Rajya Sabha, the latter house did not vote on it.
- Some other Bills that saw wide discussion in the Lok Sabha include the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Bill, the SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Bill, the Juvenile Justice Amendment Bill, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill etc.
- 18% of the Bills were passed under 5 minutes. Examples include the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2010 and the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2011.

## 11% of the Starred Questions were answered orally on the floor of the House in Lok Sabha

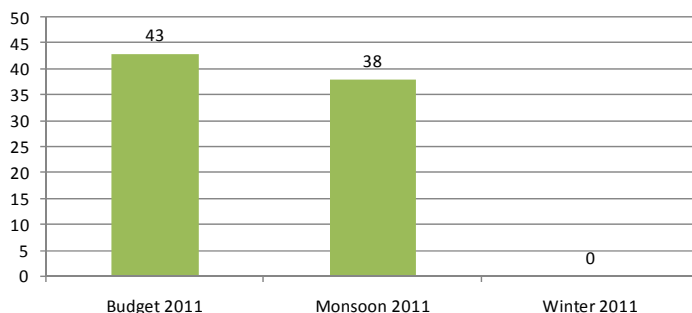
**Performance of Question hour in Lok Sabha**



- Time allotted to Question Hour was often lost to disruptions in both Houses.
- Though Rajya Sabha tried to experiment with shifting the Question Hour to 2pm in the afternoon, the change did not bring any improvement in the functioning of Question Hour. As a result it was moved back to 11 am in the morning.
- Of the 1220 starred questions listed in Lok Sabha, only 139 were orally answered. The situation was similar in Rajya Sabha; of the 1240 starred questions, only 166 could be answered orally.

## 81 Private Members' Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha; four came up for discussion

**Private Members' Bills introduced in Lok Sabha**



- Several members introduced Private Members' Bills during the year. However, time allotted to Private Members' Business was often lost to disruptions.
- In total, 81 Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha and 51 in Rajya Sabha. During the year, only four Bills were discussed in Lok Sabha and three in Rajya Sabha.
- Of the Bills introduced since the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, 202 Private Members' Bills are pending in Lok Sabha and 140 in Rajya Sabha.

### Notes:

- All data has been obtained from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha websites and/ or the Resume of Work.

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