

# Parliament Session Alert

## Budget Session: February 23 – May 08, 2015

### Highlights

- ◆ Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will meet for the Budget Session between 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. There will be a recess between 21<sup>st</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> April when the Standing Committees will examine Demand for Grants of various ministries.
- ◆ The Session will focus on financial business related to the Union and the Railway Budget.
- ◆ In addition, 10 legislative Bills currently pending in Parliament are listed for consideration and passing. 17 new Bills are proposed to be introduced. Out of these seven will also be taken up for consideration and passing. We list these below.

### Bills listed for Consideration and Passing

Short Title	Key Objectives	Introduced on	Status
<b>Industry/ Commerce/ Finance</b>			
<a href="#">The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014</a>	Introduces the Goods and Services Tax to give concurrent taxing powers to both the centre and states, and creates a Goods and Services Tax Council.	19 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Not referred to Standing Committee
<a href="#">The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014</a>	Regulates issues related to Related Party transactions, accepting public deposits and jurisdiction of special courts, etc.	12 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
<a href="#">The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill, 2014</a>	Raises the amount of authorised capital of each Regional Rural Bank to Rs 2,000 crore and sets the lower limit to one crore rupees.	18 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
<a href="#">The Payment and Settlement Systems (Amendment) Bill, 2014</a>	Regulates the trade repositories and the Legal Entity Identifier systems in India.	8 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Referred to Rajya Sabha Select Committee to report by first week of the Budget Session 2015
<b>Security / Law / Strategic Affairs</b>			
<a href="#">The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2014</a>	Repeals certain obsolete enactments.	11 Aug 2014 Lok Sabha	Standing Committee report on 19 Dec 2014
<a href="#">The Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2014</a>	Repeals 90 enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become obsolete.	3 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Referred to Rajya Sabha Select Committee to report by first week of the Budget Session 2015
<a href="#">The Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014</a>	Clarifies that the leader of the largest party in opposition would be part of the selection committee in the absence of a formal Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.	18 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Standing Committee to report within 3 months w.e.f. 22 Dec 2014
<a href="#">The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014</a>	Includes new communities to the list of Scheduled Castes in Haryana, Karnataka, Odisha, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.	11 Feb 2014 Rajya Sabha	Standing Report on 19 Dec 2014

Short Title	Key Objectives	Introduced on	Status
<a href="#">The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2013</a>	Makes the act of bribing a public servant a criminal offence, and creates provisions to cover all aspects of bribery, including definitions of the various elements of bribery.	19 Aug 2013 Rajya Sabha	Standing Committee Report on 6 Feb 2014
<b><u>Transport/ Tourism/ Urban development</u></b>			
<a href="#">The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014</a>	Enables the DMRC to evict unauthorised occupants from its premises under the Public Premises Act, 1971 and specifies time limits for the process of eviction.	11 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha

Sources: PIB press release dated Feb 21, 2015; PRS.

## Bills listed for Introduction, Consideration and Passing

Short Title	Key Objectives
The Finance Bill, 2015	Authorises expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India.
The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2015 – Replaces an Ordinance	Provides the procedure for auction of coal blocks that were cancelled by the Supreme Court in September 2014.
The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2015 – Replaces an Ordinance	Raises the limit of foreign holdings to 49% in an Indian insurance company and allows entry of foreign re insurers (companies that insure insurance companies). Also, provides for permanent registration of insurance companies and permits the holder of a life insurance policy to name the beneficiary.
The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015 – Replaces an Ordinance	Allows auction policy in grant of mining leases for both bulk minerals and notified minerals. Also, grants longer tenures over mines, increasing the period from 30 years to 50 years for minerals other than coal, lignite and atomic minerals.
The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2015 – Replaces an Ordinance	Brings e-carts and e-rickshaws under the ambit of the Act, provides for issuing of driving license and registration of e-carts and e-rickshaws.
The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2015 – Replaces an Ordinance	Relaxes the mandatory provision of one year continuous stay in India for Indian Citizenship and provides certain additional grounds on which a person may register for overseas citizenship card.
The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015 – Replaces an Ordinance	Makes land acquisition easier in some areas by exempting them from several provisions of current law. Also, brings the compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement provisions of other related laws in consonance with the existing Act of 2013.

Sources: PIB press release dated Feb 21, 2015; PRS.

## Bills listed for Introduction

Short Title
The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015
The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2015
The Warehousing Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2015
The National Cooperative Development Corporation Bill, 2015
The Whistleblowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015
The Repeal of Appropriation Acts Bill, 2015
The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2015
The Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2015
The National Academic Depository Bill, 2015
The Identification of Scheduled Castes Bill, 2015

Source: PIB press release dated Feb 21, 2015.

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