

Parliament Session Alert

Budget Session: February 23 – May 13, 2016

Highlights

- ◆ The Budget Session of Parliament will be held between February 23, 2016 and May 13, 2016. The session will have a recess from March 17 to April 24, when the Standing Committees will examine the Demand for Grants of various ministries. There will be a total of 31 sittings.
- ◆ The President will address Parliament on February 23. The Railway Budget will be presented on February 25 and the Union Budget on February 29.
- ◆ The agenda for legislation includes 12 Bills for consideration and passing. Four Bills including the Finance Bill, 2016 are listed for introduction, consideration and passing. The government plans to introduce two new Bills. Two Bills will be withdrawn. We list these below:

Bills listed for Consideration and Passing

Short Title	Key Objectives	Introduced on	Status
Constitutional Amendment			
The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014	Gives concurrent taxation powers to the centre and states to levy a Goods and Services Tax, and creates a Goods and Services Tax Council.	19 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha Select Committee Report on 22 Jul 2015. Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
Urban development			
The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013	Regulates transactions between buyers and promoters of real estate projects and sets up state level Regulatory Authorities to regulate the sector.	14 Aug 2013 Rajya Sabha	Standing Committee Report on 13 Feb 2014. Rajya Sabha Select Committee Report on 30 Jul 2015
Security / Law / Strategic Affairs			
The Lokpal and Lokayuktas and other related Law (Amendment) Bill, 2014	Modifies the composition of the Selection Committee to include the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha, and the manner of declaration of assets of public servants.	18 Dec 2014 Lok Sabha	Standing Committee Report on 7 Dec 2015
The Anti-Hijacking Bill, 2014	Replaces the Anti-Hijacking Act, 1982. Defines hijacking and awards death penalty for hijacking in certain cases.	17 Dec 2014 Rajya Sabha	Standing Committee Report on 11 Mar 2015
The Whistle Blowers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Prohibits reporting of corruption related complaints that fall under 10 specified categories.	11 May 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
The High Court and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2015	Seeks to ensure uniformity in pensions and other conditions of service of Supreme Court and High Court judges.	13 Aug 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
The Repealing and Amending (Third) Bill, 2015	Repeals 295 Acts which have ceased to be in force, and amends two Acts.	27 Jul 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
The Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill, 2015	Seeks to repeal 758 Appropriation Acts.	24 Apr 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha

Short Title	Key Objectives	Introduced on	Status
Industry			
The Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015	Excludes production of alcohol for potable purposes from the ambit of the Act.	7 Dec 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
Consumer Affairs			
The Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015	Replaces the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986. Seeks to establish BIS as the national standards body and addresses mandatory standardisation of products.	7 Aug 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
Transport/ Tourism			
The National Waterways Bill, 2015	Replaces the five existing national waterways laws. Identifies additional 101 waterways as national waterways.	5 May 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha
The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Allows the central government to revise liability limits of air carriers for compensation related to death, injury, and loss of baggage.	7 Aug 2015 Lok Sabha	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha

Sources: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, February 22, 2016, Press Information Bureau; PRS.

Bills listed for Introduction, Consideration and Passing

Short Title	Key Objectives
The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 – Replaces an Ordinance	Amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968 and the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. Expands the powers of the central government to allow for permanent vesting of enemy property with retrospective application.
The Finance Bill, 2016	Authorises expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India and contains tax proposals of the government.
The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016	Amends the Delimitation Act, 2002 and the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to permit the Election Commission to hold a delimitation exercise in West Bengal, to give voting rights to Indian citizens following the exchange of enclaves with Bangladesh.
The Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016	Gives effect to the agreement entered into by the central government with UNESCO in 2006 to establish the Regional Centre for Biotechnology. Confers upon the Regional Centre the status of an institution of national importance.

Sources: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, February 22, 2016, Press Information Bureau; PRS.

Bills listed for Introduction

Short Title
The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2016
The Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2016

Sources: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, February 22, 2016, Press Information Bureau.

Bills listed for Withdrawal

Short Title	Introduced on	Status
The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2014	7 Aug 2014	Standing Committee Report on 5 May 2015
The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Bill, 2015	24 Feb 2015	Passed by Lok Sabha, Pending in Rajya Sabha

Sources: Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, February 22, 2016, Press Information Bureau.

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