

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

13

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: parliament session.

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 21/12/21

In 2020, RS saw lowest number of sittings ever

It has met fewer than 50 times on just three other occasions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the government refusing to call the winter session of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha sat for just 33 days in 2020, its lowest-ever tally of sittings in a year. There are only three other occasions when the sittings were below 50 days in a year.

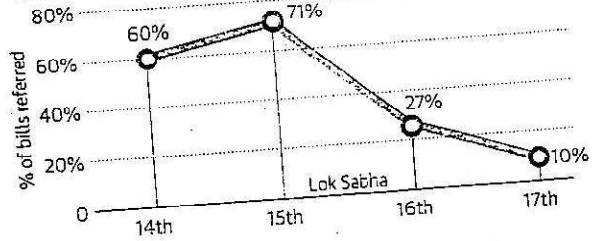
The Budget and the monsoon sessions had to be cut short due to COVID-19. The Budget session, which was scheduled to have 31 sittings, was brought to a close after 23 sessions. Similarly, the monsoon session, which was to have 18 sittings, amid strict restrictions, could manage to have only 10 as the number of COVID-19 positive cases among parliamentarians and the supporting staff started spiralling.

There are only three other occasions when the Rajya Sabha met for fewer than 50 sittings in a year – 48 in 1999 and 46 each in 2004 and 2008.

The BJP, the single largest party in the Upper House, now has 93 members. The House is no longer the stumbling block that it was during the first term of the Naren-

Fast track

Only 10% of the Bills have been referred to a committee in the 17th Lok Sabha so far, much lower than the last three terms, according to PRS legislative research



dra Modi government.

The last time the winter session was cancelled was 36 years ago in 1984. In overall parliamentary history, there have been only two other instances in 1979 and 1975 when the winter session was cancelled.

'Productivity not hit'

As per an analysis by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the limited number of sittings did not hurt the productivity. "During the year 2020, the annual productivity has been 82.7%, the highest annual productivity during the last 11 years," a senior Rajya

Sabha official said.

A total of 39 Bills have been passed by the House during 2020, including 12 during the Budget session and 27 during the monsoon session. The list of legislation includes the three controversial farm laws, which the Opposition parties claimed were bulldozed through without any credible discussion.

Year 2020 also saw an unprecedented suspension of eight Opposition MPs and the Opposition moving a notice for the removal of Deputy Chairman Harivanshi Narayan Singh.