

INDIAN DEMOCRACY IN APPLICATION

PERFORMANCE OF XV LOK SABHA - A PERSPECTIVE

Lok Sabha Performance Overview - Representation

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This research report has been compiled by Rezorce Research Foundation for purpose of information dissemination and serious discussion on the state of today's Parliament in India. All information is sourced from official documents published by different departments concerned. You agree to credit Rezorce Research Foundation for any information used from this report. All inferences are responsibility of Rezorce and no one else. Please contact Narendra KV, Director for any further information

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Research Purpose

Democracy is the single biggest achievement that we can claim as a country. Democracy is not just about elections. It is more about what happens between elections.

We have analyzed the performance of XV Lok Sabha in great detail. Our purpose is to identify specific performance gaps and also to identify members who have done a great job. It is our belief that all stakeholders have to continuously contribute to make things work. It is our belief that Parliament can only be successful if parties plan and execute their agenda.

Indian Parliament, like all institutions, needs feedback and collective resolution to become responsive to popular aspirations. Democratic practice is an expensive exercise. It is also an involved exercise. An audit of specific performance parameters would help practitioners make the institution more relevant to the aspirations of the citizens. Constant public review is the best safeguard to assure ourselves that we are getting the best returns for our collective investment in this institution. This study is an exercise in that direction.

The culmination of XV Lok Sabha gives us an opportunity to examine the state of our democratic institutions. We analyze whether Parliamentary India is experiencing tiredness or is as vigorous as in the past 63 years.

We had shared the performance of XV Lok Sabha with respect to sessions and disruptions in our first report. This second report focuses on Legislation. This is the third report is on **Parliamentary Oversight**. This report focuses on **Representation**.

Members from the lower house / **Lok Sabha** represent their state, parliamentary constituency as well as their political party on the floor of the house. They represent the state of the nation on the largest parliamentary platform in terms of debates.

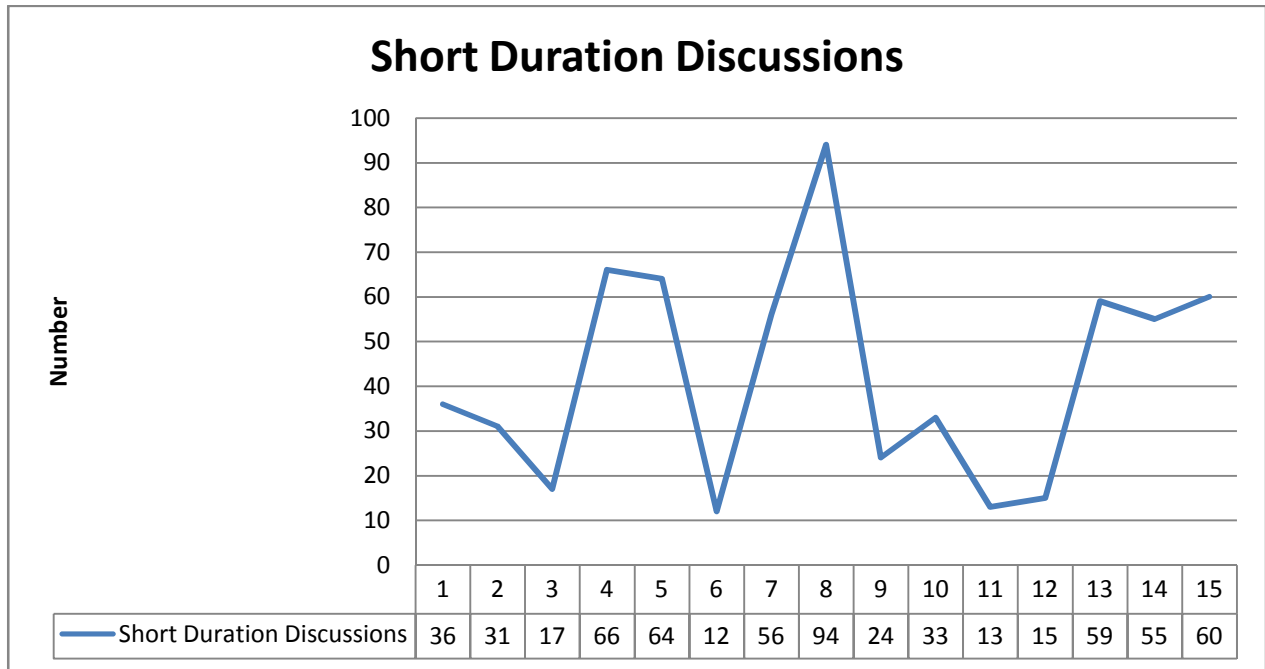
Representation on issues of their state and constituencies are covered in our state – wise analysis. We have covered issues concerning women, minority groups, children, disability and SC / ST in our next section on Inclusivity.

Debates

There are many forms of debates and interventions possible in Parliament. Parliament gives you an opportunity to invest in the proceedings and bring policy changes through effective interventions. We examine the performance of the XV Lok Sabha from a perspective of how the members used opportunities they had to bring to light subjects that affect the nation.

Short Duration Discussions [Rule 193]

A member can discuss any matter of urgent public importance with prior notice as a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193. This tool enables members to raise upto two issues per member per session.



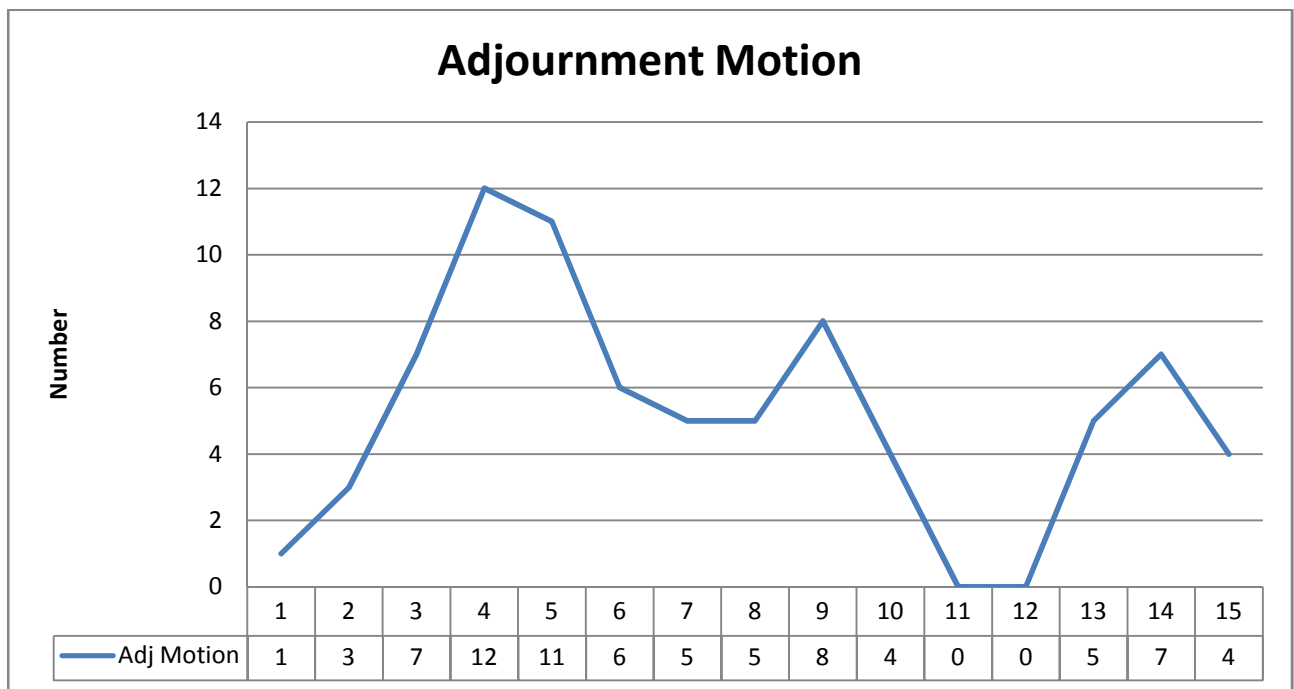
Over a 5 year period, members took up 60 discussions under this Rule. Issues like natural disasters, Tamil plight in Sri Lanka, economic situation, uniform education system, Central – state relations, internal security were among the subjects that were discussed.

The number of discussions was not many, but the quality of discussions was of a high standard.

Adjournment Motion

Adjournment Motion allows a member to draw attention of the House to a recent matter of public importance having serious consequences and in regard to which a motion or resolution, as per procedure, will be too late.

Adjournment Motion is a powerful tool to raise issues and when this Motion is introduced all other planned discussions are halted. A member can raise one Motion every session.



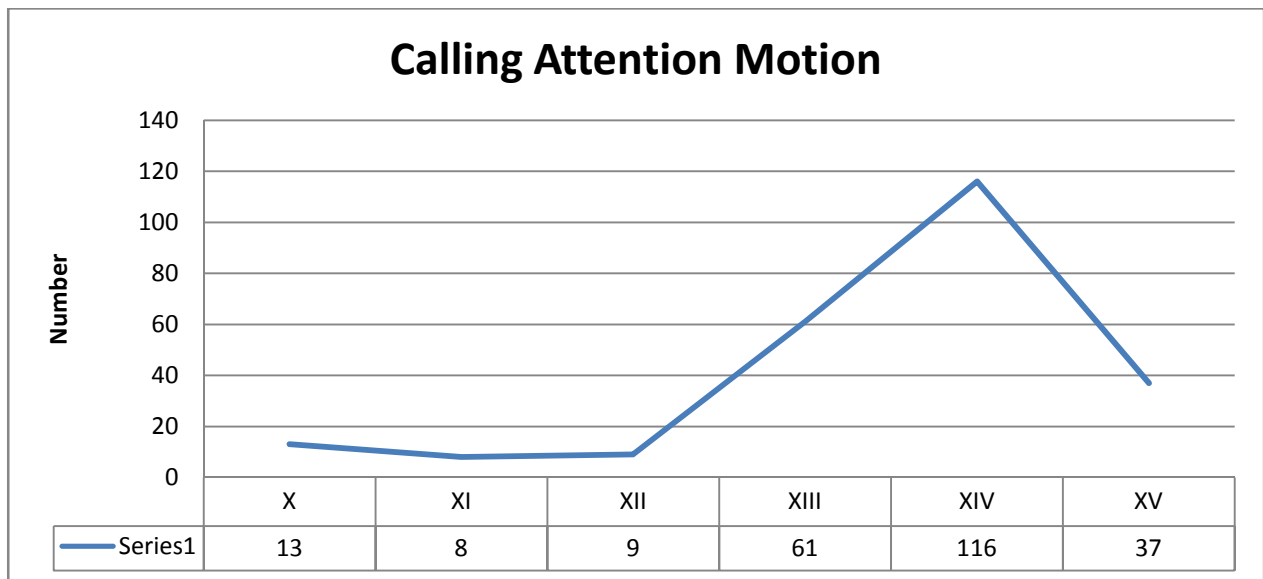
Mr. **Lal Kishan Advani** initiated both the discussions. They were on the subjects of Infiltration into Assam and Black money in foreign banks.

Mr. **Basudeb Achariya** [Bankura, WB – CPIM] had also move an Adjournment Motion on Black Money issue. **Yogi Aditya Nath** [Ghorakpur, UP – BJP] secured the right to speak on the subject of Assam infiltration. He requested the House to allow Mr. **Lal Kishan Advani** to speak on his behalf.

Calling Attention Motion [Rule 197]

“Calling Attention Motion” is a tool where a member can, with the Chair’s permission, call attention of any minister to any matter of urgent public importance. The minister can make an immediate statement or seek time to make a statement. Debates are not allowed, but members can ask questions and seek clarification on minister’s statements. A member can give two notices per session.

Many issues ranging from coconut growers plight in Tamil Nadu and Malaysian MNC setting up a hotel in Andaman & Nicobar Islands came up for discussion.

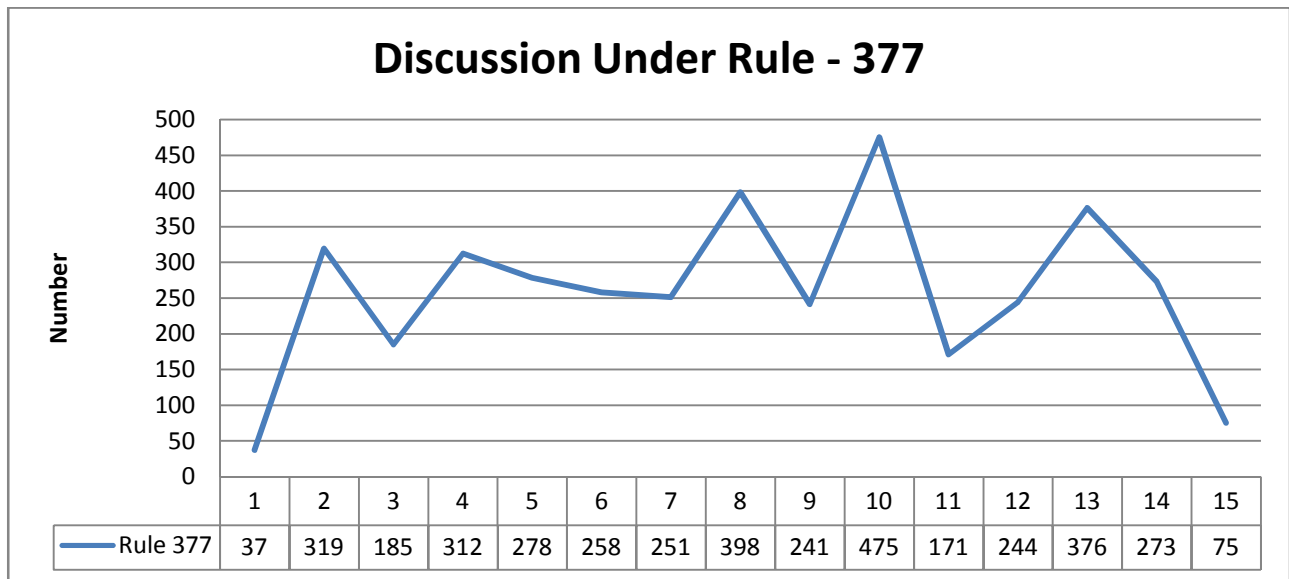


16,350 motions were theoretically possible during this Lok Sabha. 0.226% of the possibility was used up. It is surprising that members did not have enough constituency problems to reflect using this tool.

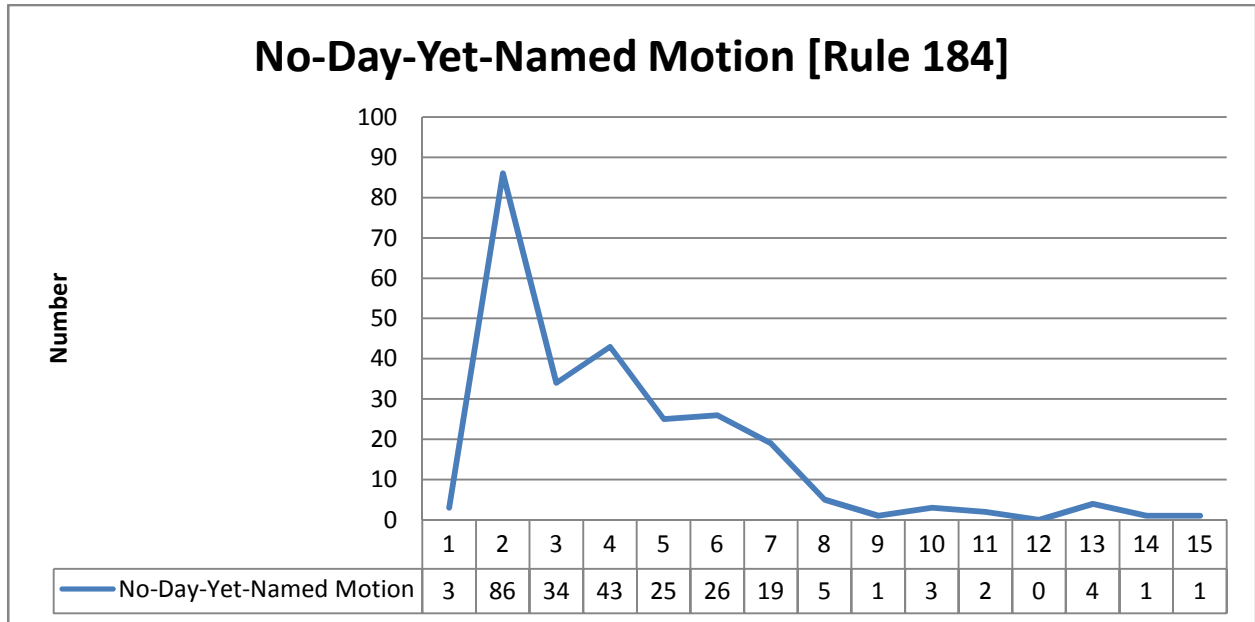
Matters Under Rule - 377

Matters that cannot be discussed under questions, short – notice questions, calling attention motion etc. can be raised in Parliament under this section. The member is allowed to raise any matter, as a written notice, in less than 150 words.

This is the most common form of discussion. **3,893** topics have been raised in XV Lok Sabha under this Rule.



No – Day – Yet – Named Motion [Rule 184]



A Motion by definition means a proposal that seeks a decision of the House. No – Day – Yet – Named Motion under Rule 184 is a powerful Parliamentary tool for a member to raise specific public issues that concern the public. Contentious issues that are specific to a particular subject and not raised elsewhere can be addressed through this Motion. Every member can move two Motions in each Session.

Members across political spectrum can use this tool to bring to notice and seek remedial legislative action using this tool. The member who introduces the Motion gets a chance to present the issue in a focused manner. He gets another chance at the end of the debate to reinforce and exercise his right to reply. Any presentation of Motion under this Rule, however, requires considerable preparation.

Parliamentary disruptions can be minimized when parties give notice and use this tool to raise contentious issues and legislations. These tools can eliminate the need hold Parliament to ransom. The government cannot stop any discussion under this Rule.

In early life of our Parliamentary democracy, this was a preferred tool for policy intervention. The opposition members did not feel the need for constant disruption since they apparently planned intervention judiciously. This route has taken a back seat in recent time, with the result that ego matches have become the popular alternative to hold the Parliament in ransom.

In the current Lok Sabha, this tool was used once for discussion on FDI in Multi – Brand Retail Trade [04 – 12 – 2012 and 05 – 12 – 2012]



Motion Under Rule 191 & 342

This is a tool to raise an issue that concerns policy, situation, statement or any other government matter. This Motion is similar to No – Day – Yet – Named Motion.

Six debates have happened in the XV Lok Sabha under the above rules. They are:

1. Suspension of members from the House for indiscipline and hooliganism
2. Motion regarding expressing deep concern over price rise, and calling upon Government to take immediate effective steps to check inflation, giving relief to common man
3. Suspension of Rule 331G of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
4. Motion regarding appointment of a Joint Committee of Both Houses (JPC)
5. Further discussion on motion regarding consideration of inflationary pressure on the Economy and its adverse impact on the common man
6. Discussion on the motion regarding consideration of issues of Population Stabilisation in the country.

Rezorce Observations

Lok Sabha members have many tools to articulate their views on problems affecting the citizens on the floor of the House. Each of these tools has a specific purpose and can be used extremely effectively to facilitate discussion and help influence policy decisions within the government.

Members seldom use these tools since they require more effort in getting the Business Advisory Committee to agree for a discussion, getting prepared for debates and actually speaking to the House. Even a well articulated speech may not get two lines of discussion in the papers or on TV. It is easier to disrupt house and gain notoriety. Nation – wide media attention follows instantly and people can tend to become heroes back home.

The performance of Lok Sabha in terms of efficiency has declined rapidly as the numbers above indicate. The situation has come to such a pass that even the only “No – Confidence Motion” introduced in the XV Lok Sabha on 22 – 11 – 2012 did not gather any momentum. Mr. Sudip Bandyopadhyay [Kolkata Uttar, WB – Trinamool Congress] was even unable to get 50 opposition members to support his motion and it eventually failed to come up for a discussion. He moved the Motion on the issue of FDI in Retail that nearly brought down UPA – II. In earlier Lok Sabha, a “No Confidence Motion” when moved brought the entire country to a halt. It is a different matter that the purpose of Mr. Sudip Bandyopadhyay’s motion introduction may be more to do with West Bengal politics and have no intention to bring down the government.

Parliamentary wing of political parties may need to analyze how they can make a difference to the situation. If political managers identify specific issues that affect their political constituencies and plan its discussion in a procedural manner, there will be better coverage of issues and more meaning to the working of the Lok Sabha. There is a distance between political mobilization and parliamentary performance. What happens in Lok Sabha has no relevance to the constituency that a political party is claiming to represent. If parties can sync their party establishment to Parliamentary party, then members would appreciate the need for more active participation in the Parliament.

About Rezorce Research Foundation

Rezorce Research Foundation [http://www.rezorce.com/rezorce_research_foundation] is a not – for – profit research foundation registered under the Trusts Act. We focus on research in three different areas: [1] Staffing; [2] Forensic Research; [3] Software Labs and [4] Public Policy. Our achievements in the last three years are as follows:

1. Forensic Research

- a. We are one of the only Forensic research organizations in the private sector globally focused on business intelligence
- b. We have four patents in the areas of investigation and verification
- c. “Role Based Verification” is a service focused to help Indian private sector companies eliminate résumé padding during hiring

2. Staffing

- a. We have listed 7,000+ bogus employers on our web portal, Rezorce~Check Employer Red Data around India [<http://www.rezorce.com/rezorcecheckemployerredata.php>].
- b. These companies are in the business of giving fake employment offers and certificates and cheating people
- c. The portal access is given free to all Employers. 13,500+ access the portal every month

3. Software Labs

- a. We manage 28 Professional Groups on LinkedIn. Senior architects globally interact professionally through these forums on software architecture and design related areas
- b. 8 of the Groups have the largest professional members from around the world in their space. 18 other groups are among the Top 5 in their technology space globally.

4. Public Policy

- a. Our intervention is to make parliamentary and legislative bodies function better
- b. We contribute to public debate that Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha invite through different committees.
- c. We believe that petitions are a powerful tool for a common man in a democracy to get administration to act. We have filed petitions to the committee of petitions in different areas to validate our beliefs
- d. We have actively contributed in the following areas:
 - i. Reducing banking frauds and NPA through better risk management
 - ii. Hoysala temples on Karnataka tourist circuit