

17वीं लोकसभा के प्रथम वर्ष की उपलब्धियाँ

Achievements Of 1st Year Of 17th Lok Sabha



भारतीय संसद

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA



PREFACE

Indian democracy is the largest working democracy in the world. The identity of our pluralistic society, democratic traditions and principles are deeply rooted in our culture. It is in the backdrop of this rich heritage that India had established itself as a democratic republic after its independence from the colonial rule in the preceding century.

Parliament of India is the *sanctum sanctorum* of our democratic system. Being the symbol of our national unity and sovereignty, this august institution represents our diverse society.

Our citizens actively participate in the sacred democratic processes through periodic elections and other democratic means. The elected representatives articulate their hopes and aspirations and through legislations, work diligently, for the national interest and welfare of the people. This keeps our democracy alive and vibrant. In fact, people's faith in our vibrant democratic institutions depends greatly upon the effectiveness with which the proceedings of the House are conducted.

The Chair and the Members, through their collective efforts, give voice to the matters of public importance. In fact, the Lower House, Lok Sabha, under the leadership and guidance of the Hon'ble Speaker, is pivotal to the fulfillment of national efforts for development and public welfare.

The 17th Lok Sabha was constituted on 25 May 2019 and its first sitting was held on 17 June 2019. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, moved the motion for election of Shri Om Birla as the new Speaker of the Lok Sabha on 19 June 2019, which was seconded by Shri Rajnath Singh. The motion was unanimously adopted by the House and Shri Om Birla was chosen as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha.

Over the past one year, the 17th Lok Sabha has achieved several important milestones and played a key role in realizing the hopes and aspirations of the people of our country. It has largely been successful in attaining the goals set forth by the makers of our Constitution. The 17th Lok Sabha has shown exemplary initiatives in every field, be it legislative or administrative functions, financial reforms or innovations with regard to Parliamentary Committees.

Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Speaker, several historic programmes such as Swachhata Abhiyan, Yoga Shivir on International Yoga Day, Fit India Mission, 150th Birth Anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi, tree plantation drive, Flag hoisting on the occasion of Independence Day in the Parliament and 70th Constitution Day Celebration were organized in the past year. These programmes have helped to deepen the engagement of Lok Sabha with the people of the country.

Parliament belongs to all and the contribution and cooperation of all parties is essential for the achievement of the desired goals. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all the parties and their leaders, Panel of Chairpersons, Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs, Deputy Leader of the House, Minister of Defence and Leader of the House, Hon'ble Prime Minister for their unprecedented cooperation. Besides, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, CPWD, Lok Sabha TV, Officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat also deserve appreciation for their hard work and contribution.

It is hoped that this booklet will be found useful and informative by parliamentarians, researchers, scholars and other keen readers in understanding the functioning of the Lok Sabha.

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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF 17TH LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha is the elected House of the world's largest democracy. The elected representatives express the concerns and opinions of the general public in the House and ensure the accountability of the Executive. Several procedural devices are available for the use of the Members for the fulfillment of this objective, the judicious use of which can facilitate more effective expression of public sentiments.

During the last one year tenure of Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, several initiatives have been taken to bring greater efficiency and transparency in different aspects of parliamentary functioning, be it legislative, financial, Member services, research or digitalization along with the functioning of the House and the Committee system. Efforts have been made to strengthen the impact of parliamentary diplomacy, realize the goal of paperless office and several other directions. Some of the major initiatives are underlined here.

I. Initiatives related to functioning of the House

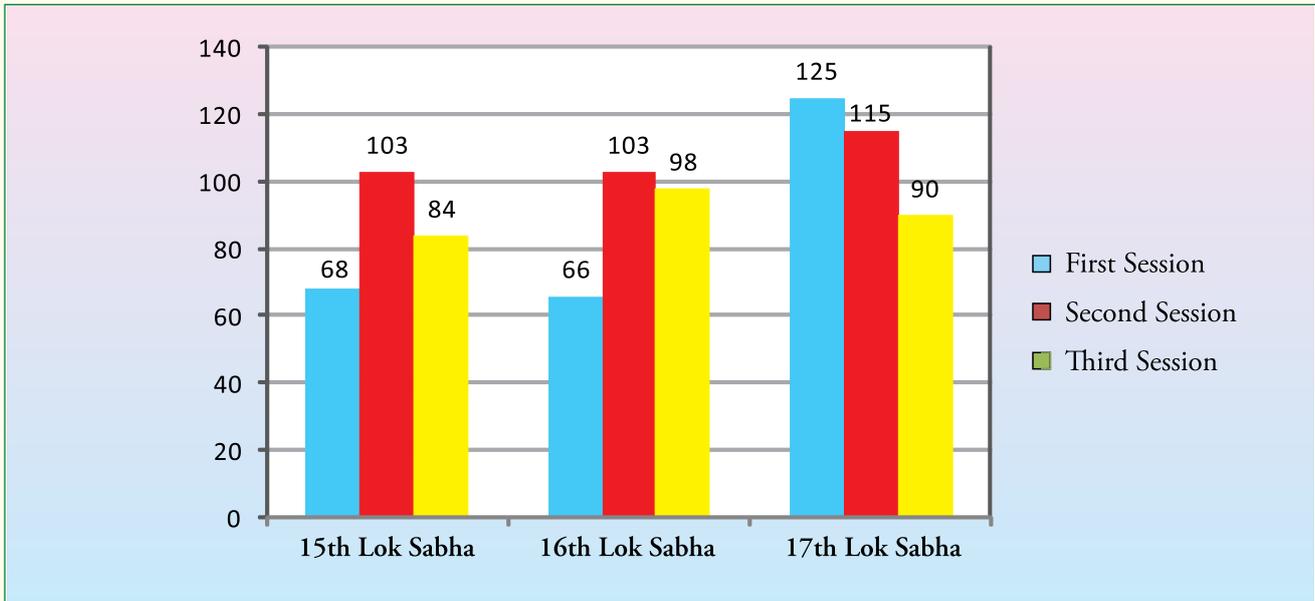
The 17th Lok Sabha was constituted on 25th May 2019. Thereafter, its first session commenced on 17th June 2019. Thus, the first year of the term of the present Lok Sabha has been completed successfully on 17th June 2020. During this period, three sessions of Lok Sabha have been convened.

1. Work Productivity of the 17th Lok Sabha

The first session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha was a historical session in terms of productivity. During this session, maximum work was disposed of in any one session since 1952 and it turned out to be the most effective and productive session during the last three decades. A total of 37 sittings took place during this session which lasted for 280 hours. No time was lost due to interruptions/adjournments during the first session. Total productivity of the first session was 125 percent which was a remarkable achievement. Similarly, productivity of the second and the third session was 115 percent and 90 percent, respectively.

The average productivity during the first three sessions of the 17th Lok Sabha had been 110 percent whereas it was 85 percent and 89 percent during the first three sessions of 15th Lok Sabha and 16th Lok Sabha respectively. Thus, the average productivity of 17th Lok Sabha has been the highest.

Percentage of Work Productivity during the first three sessions of 15th, 16th and 17th Lok Sabha

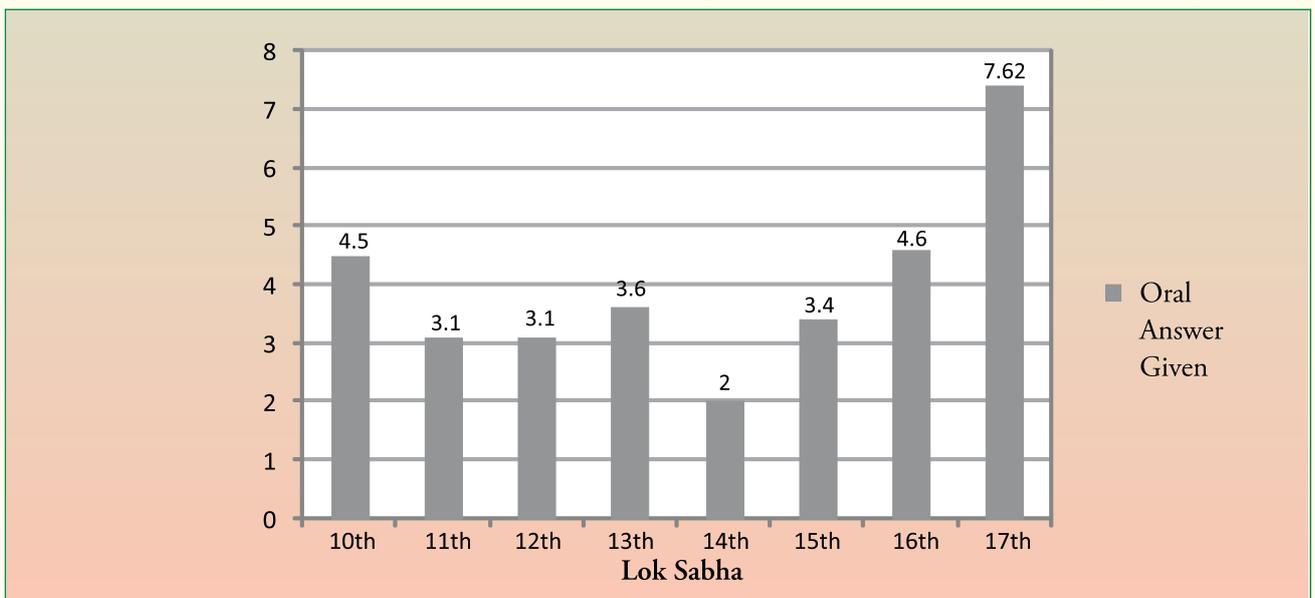


First Part Only			
Lok Sabha	First Session	Second Session	Third Session
15th	68	103	84
16th	66	103	98
17th	125	115	90

2. Strengthening and streamlining the functioning of Question Hour

Question Hour is a highly effective parliamentary tool available to the Members for raising current issues and seeking reply from the Government. No interruptions took place during the Question Hour in the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha and under the leadership of Hon'ble Speaker, the time available

Average of Oral Questions answered every day during the 10th to 17th Lok Sabha (in percentage)



Data includes:

10th Lok Sabha (First and Second Session).

11th to 16th Lok Sabha (Only Second Session), there was no Question Hour during the First Session.

17th Lok Sabha (First Session only).

under Question Hour was fully utilized. On an average 7.62 questions were orally answered every day. In comparison to it, average 3.79 questions were orally answered every day during the period from 1996 to 2019.

It has been the top most priority of the Hon'ble Speaker to strengthen and streamline the functioning of the Question Hour and increase the actual participation of the Members during the Question Hour. For this purpose, Hon'ble Speaker gave maximum opportunities to the Members to ask questions and supplementary questions.

On 27th November 2019, after 47 years (*i.e.* after 1972), for the first time, all the 20 Starred Questions listed were orally answered during the Question Hour. Answers to all the questions asked by the Members of Parliament were given by the concerned Ministers.

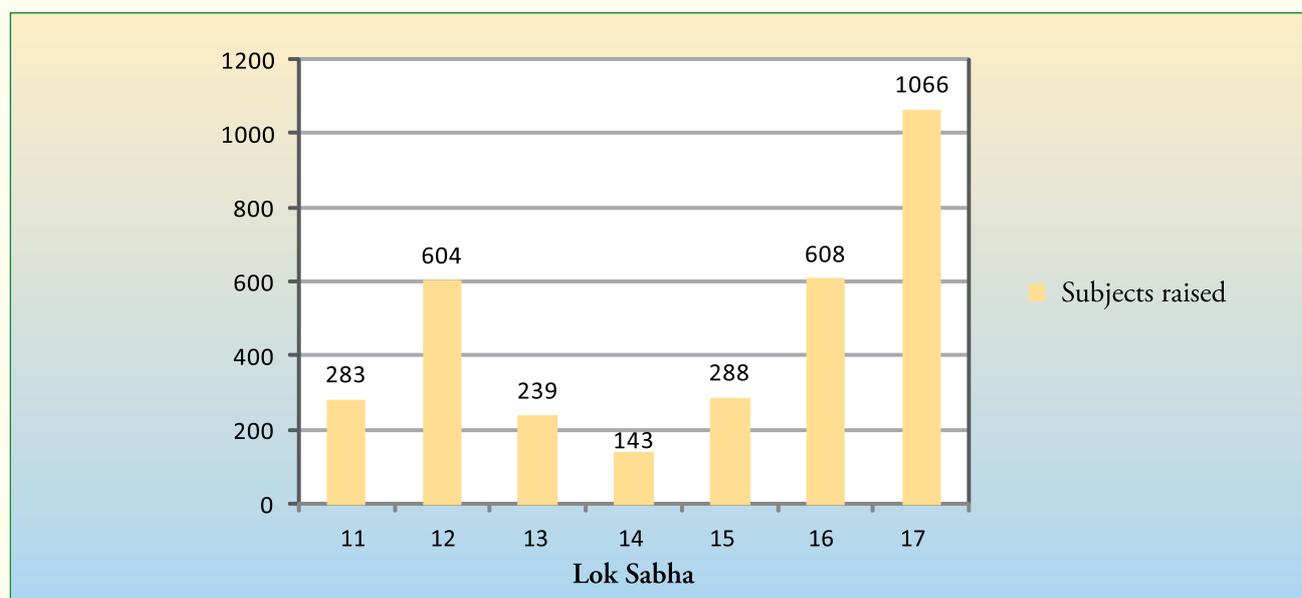
During the 17th Lok Sabha, there has been a huge increase in the number of e-notices of Questions received. The percentage of e-notices was 34.77 percent during the 16th Lok Sabha which increased to 58 percent during the 17th Lok Sabha. This is an important achievement in the direction of adopting digital technology in the Lok Sabha.

3. Zero Hour

Providing opportunity to maximum Hon'ble Members to raise matters of urgent public importance during the Zero Hour has been a significant achievement of the last one year. During this period, 2436 matters of urgent public importance were raised, which is a record in itself.

During the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, the Hon'ble Speaker granted permission to raise 1066 matters of urgent public importance during the Zero Hour. This is the highest number of matters of urgent public importance raised in a session in the history of the Lok Sabha. Similarly, on 18th July, 2019, during the first session of the 17th Lok Sabha, 161 Members were allowed to raise matters of urgent public importance during the Zero Hour. This is also the highest such number in a day in the history of the Lok Sabha.

Matters raised during Zero Hour from 11th to 17th Lok Sabha



Comprises data of First and Second Session in respect of 11th to 16th Lok Sabha.
Only the First Session of 17th Lok Sabha.

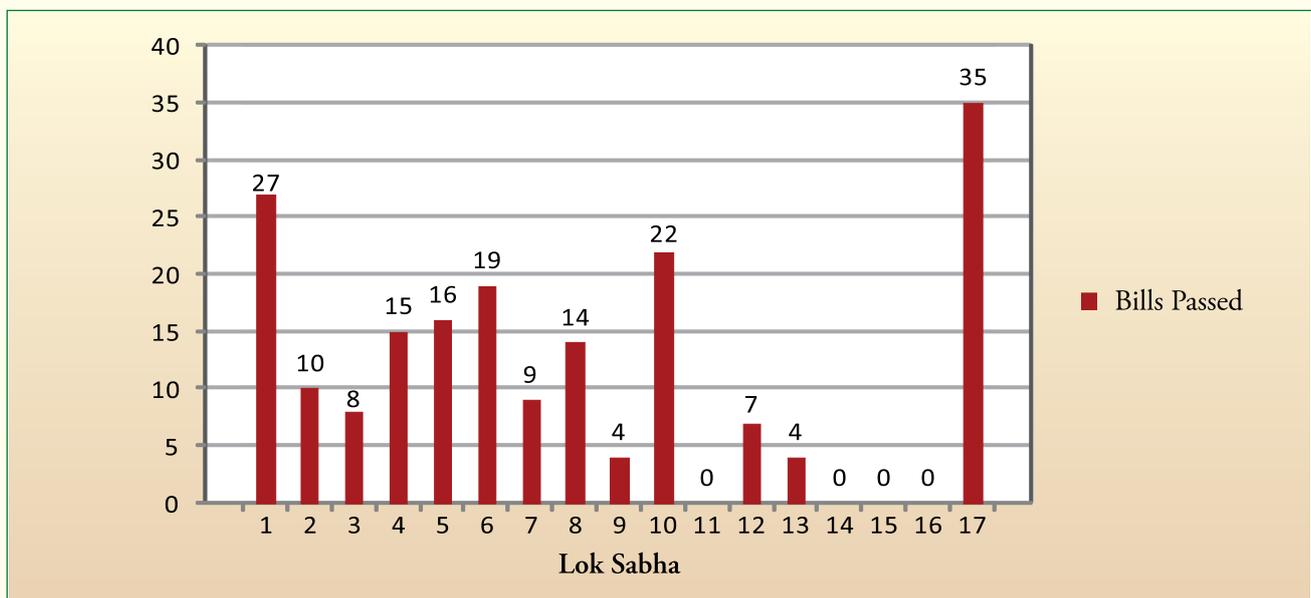
4. Legislative Business

As far as Legislative Business is concerned, 33 Government Bills were introduced and 35 Government Bills were passed during the First Session. The introduction, consideration and passage of Bills in such a huge number in merely 37 sittings of the House and that too with the full participation of all sections of the House has really been a remarkable achievement. On a number of Bills, all the Parties remained invariably committed to their passage, evincing unanimity rising above party politics. Important Bills passed in the First Session included the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019; the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019; the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019; and the Code on Wages, 2019, etc.

During the Second Session, 18 Bills were introduced and in total, 14 Bills were passed. Among the important Bills passed during the Second Session included the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019; the Constitution (126th Amendment) Bill, 2019; and the Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019, etc.

During the Third Session, 18 Bills were introduced and in total, 15 Bills were passed. Among the important Bills passed during the Third Session included the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Bill, 2020; the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020; the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2020; and the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020, etc.

Bills passed during the First Session of First to Seventeenth Lok Sabha



5. Providing maximum opportunities to the newly elected Members

Hon'ble Speaker provided ample opportunities to the newly elected Members to raise important topical issues in the very First Session. Out of a total of 265 newly elected Members, as many as 229 Members made their maiden speeches during the Zero Hour. Alongside, as many as 46 newly elected women Members also put forward their views during the Zero Hour. Nowhere does one find such a precedent of providing as many opportunities to newly elected Members to express their views in the House. It was indeed a commendable initiative.

6. Hon'ble Speaker's initiative to enhance Members' participation and accountability of the Government

The initiative taken by the Hon'ble Speaker resulted in a significant increase in the percentage of replies to the matters raised/laid on the Table of the House under Rule 377.

In view of this initiative, an effort was made by convening a meeting of the Secretaries/Additional Secretaries of the concerned Ministries by the Secretary General, Lok Sabha to ensure that the answers are submitted within the stipulated time period of 30 days. Since these issues pertain to the parliamentary constituency of Members of Parliament, thus continuous emphasis is being laid on the submission of these answers within a definite time limit. The percentage of the answers grew up to 88 per cent during the first three Sessions of 17th Lok Sabha as a result of this novel initiative, whereas it was approximately 60 per cent during 15th and 16th Lok Sabha. It will hopefully, achieve its 100 per cent target in future.

It was at the Hon'ble Speaker's initiative that the convention of holding discussion on the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on the last working day of the week was done away with. Instead, Members were allowed to raise Matters under Rule 377.

7. Amendments to the Directions in pursuance of Rule 389 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha

Hon'ble Speaker has brought about amendments to the Directions in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. By amending Direction 27, it has been provided that a Member shall be permitted to introduce only 3 Private Members' Bills during a session. Along with this, Direction 42 has also been amended, providing that a Member shall be permitted to move only 10 cut motions on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The purpose of this step was to ensure smooth and hassle free discussion in the House so that more and more Members could get opportunities to put forth their views.

II. Improvement in the Functioning of the House

1. LED Display Panel in the Lok Sabha Chamber and electronic/digital screen in the Outer Lobby

New 98 inch LED display panels have been installed in the Lok Sabha Chamber of the Parliament House in place of the old plasma screens which display the names and other information about Members participating in the proceedings of the House. For display in the outer lobby and Parliamentary Notice Office, electronic/digital system have also been installed for the convenience of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

2. Video clippings of the statements made by the Members in the House

An initiative has been taken to provide video clippings to the Members of Lok Sabha of the statements made by them in the House. This has been first such initiative in the history of the Parliament. The video clippings are being made available to all the Members of Parliament on their mobile phones.

The video clippings are made available to them immediately after their participation in the proceedings of the House on the same day on their WhatsApp, Instagram and on Lok Sabha T.V. website.

3. Measures for Capacity Building of the Members of Parliament

At the initiative of the Hon'ble Speaker, the Reference Division has organised 19 Briefing Sessions on important legislative business before the House as a measure for capacity building of the Members of Parliament. The objective is to provide information to the Members of Parliament on legislative matters. Once a Bill is introduced in the House, a Briefing Session is organised in regard to the Bill, in which senior officers of the concerned Ministry provide information to the Members of Parliament. The Members have commended this initiative.

4. Convening of meetings of General Purposes Committee (GPC) after 19 years

The meeting of the General Purposes Committee was convened on 10th February 2020 during the Budget Session under the Chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha after 19 years.

The meeting was attended by the Chairpersons of all the Standing Committees, Leaders of all political parties and Panel of Chairpersons of Lok Sabha; in all, 35 Members participated. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs was a special guest. Several important matters relating to the Parliament were discussed during this meeting. It was also decided that regular meetings of the Committee will be convened during each session.

The second meeting of the Committee was also convened on 19th March 2020. The construction of a new building of Parliament was deliberated upon during this meeting.

5. Review of the Rules of Lok Sabha

The Rules of Lok Sabha were last reviewed in the year 1989. At the initiative of Hon'ble Speaker, an Internal Rules Review Committee was constituted on 11th November 2019, to review the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. This Committee consists of Secretary General, Lok Sabha as its Chairperson and three former Secretaries General of Lok Sabha as its members.

The Committee, in its meetings held so far, has focused on the rules which require modifications and work on these amendments/modifications in the rules is in progress. The Committee will submit its report soon.

After the submission of report of the Internal Rules Review Committee, the proposals relating to the review of rules will be placed before the Rules Committee of the Parliament for consideration.

III. Strengthening of Committee System

During the last one year, the Hon'ble Speaker has made a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Parliamentary Committees and has taken many decisions to improve the functioning of Committees and make them more effective. Out of these, the main decisions are as follows:

- (a) The Parliamentary Committees will ensure that the benefits of the Government's programmes and policies reach the last mile person. To ensure this, the recommendations of the previous Parliamentary Committees, which resulted in the direct delivery of benefits to the people, are being compiled for providing guidance to the Committees in future.
- (b) Various Ministries/Departments shall ensure compliance of recommendations/directives of Parliamentary Committees and in such cases where compliance is not being ensured, a report will be prepared and will be laid on the Table of the House.

- (c) The list of topics selected by Parliamentary Committees will be sent to the Research and Reference Service. This service will provide required inputs and reference notes on the selected topics to all the Members of the Committee. This will be helpful for examination of the topics selected by the Committee.
- (d) In reports of the Committees working on Human development related aspects, it shall be ensured that the figures given in them are in tune with the parameters of national and international indicators.
- (e) An effort will be made to avoid the selection of similar subjects by ensuring coordination in selection of subjects by the various Committees.

IV. Facilities provided to Hon'ble Members of Parliament

1. Residential Facilities

On 19th August 2019, Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated 36 duplex flats for the Hon'ble Members of Parliament at North Avenue. This was the first in a series in which 264 flats are to be constructed at North Avenue and South Avenue.

76 multi-storied residential flats are being built after demolishing seven bungalows located on B D Marg and one bungalow on the Talkatora Road. Efforts are being made to complete the work at the earliest along with maintaining high standards of quality.

It has been ordered to convert the Conference Hall situated on the first floor in the new Western Court complex into 'Dormitory Style Accommodation' so that adequate arrangements can be made for the stay of outstation visitors of Hon'ble Members.

Access control for better management of security in the Western Court complex, will be ensured. Western Court Complex includes both old and new buildings and is used by the Hon'ble Members as transit and guest accommodation.

2. Booking Counter of IRCTC

Orders have also been issued for setting up a new booking counter of IRCTC in Parliament House Complex to provide the facility of booking tickets for private air journeys by Hon'ble Members.

3. Arrangement of Ambulance Service

In pursuance of orders, 24-hour ambulance service at the Wellness Centers being run by the CGHS in the residential areas of the Members of Parliament such as North Avenue and South Avenue has been arranged so that the Hon'ble Members and their families could get the facility of emergency services.

4. Health Checkup for Hon'ble Members of Parliament

A Health Checkup Camp was organized from 20th November to 4th December, 2019 for Hon'ble Members of Parliament and their families in which specialist doctors of various departments rendered their services. 537 Hon'ble Members of Parliament availed this facility.

5. Initiatives for former MPs

The Hon'ble Speaker has directed that the former MPs should be contacted and information about their health and well being should be sought.

An initiative has been taken that as a mark of honour, a wreath shall be placed on behalf of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, on the demise of any former Member. For this purpose, the Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all the States and Union Territories have been requested to instruct the concerned District Magistrates that a wreath be placed on the demise of the former Member of Parliament in his/her honour, on behalf of the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha.

6. Establishment of an Information and Communication Centre for Members

The Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha has set up an Information and Communication Center on the lines of a call centre to ensure immediate information and assistance to Members and help them discharge their responsibilities effectively. Various types of information such as proceedings of Lok Sabha, participation of Members in Starred Questions, Zero Hour, participation in discussions under Rule 377, briefing about bills to be introduced, research, reference, medical facilities, vehicles and accommodation and all other information is being provided at single window through this Centre. The mobile numbers of Hon'ble Members and the phone numbers of one of their personal staff have been linked with this Information Centre. Till now, 21000 calls have been made to the Hon'ble Members through this Centre. Additionally, during Covid-19 pandemic, 6000 calls have been made to enquire about the wellbeing of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

V. Capacity Building Initiatives

The purview of the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training has been further broadened by including research into it, besides study and training. It has now been renamed as Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE). Following programmes have been organised under its auspices:

- (a) A training programme on e-Parliament, Parliamentary Procedures and Practices was organized for PAs and Personal Staff of Members of Parliament. PRIDE has received positive response in this regard and based on the feedback received from the participants, two more subjects have been added to this programme *viz.*, 'Functioning of Committee System' and 'Etiquettes and Behaviours'.
- (b) An orientation programme on 'Parliamentary Diplomacy' was organized for the Members of Parliament to make them aware about putting forth their views in international fora.
- (c) PRIDE has started a new training programme *w.e.f.* 6th November, 2019 for the employees working in various Ministries of Government of India with a view to narrow the gap prevailing between the working of various Ministries and Parliament.
- (d) Orientation Programme for newly elected Members of Seventeenth Lok Sabha was organised in six sessions. These sessions were held on 3rd July, 4th July, 19th July, 21st November, 28th November and 5th December, 2019.
- (e) Orientation Programme for State Legislatures was organised for the Members of State Legislatures of Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Haryana. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha also addressed the Hon'ble Members of Haryana Legislative Assembly during the valedictory session held on 22nd January, 2020.
- (f) In order to explore the possibilities of organising an orientation/training programme for the Members of Parliament and officers of Maldives, three officers from Lok Sabha Secretariat also visited Maldives. Later, a group of 10 officers of the Parliament of Maldives visited PRIDE for training on the various aspects of working of the Indian Parliament.

- (g) Special programmes were held for the officers of Cambodian Senate, Members of Parliament of Azerbaijan, Members of Cameroon Parliament, officers of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and officers of the People's Majlis of Maldives.
- (h) PRIDE, for the first time, organised the following online training courses: (i) 'Handling Social Media' for officers of PPR, LSTV, HS Office and other officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat; (ii) 'Questions, Legislative and Budgetary Procedure' for officers of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislatures; (iii) 'Stress Management'; and (iv) Sensitizing the officers/staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat towards women. (Gender Sensitisation)

VI. Other Parliamentary Events and Innovations

1. Façade Lighting of Parliament

The Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated a new lighting system on 13th August, 2019 which was installed on the façade of the Parliament in compliance with the instructions of the Hon'ble Speaker to beautify the Parliament House Complex. The façade lights have supplemented the beauty of the Parliament building in the night and the same has been applauded by the visitors to Parliament.

2. Ban on the use of single-use plastic in the Parliament House Complex

The Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a clarion call from the ramparts of the Red Fort last year (2019) on the occasion of the Independence Day to impose a ban on the use of single use plastic. In pursuance of this objective, the Hon'ble Speaker has completely banned the use of single-use plastic in the Parliament House Complex.

3. Commencement of Swachhata Abhiyan

Taking the resolution of "Swachh Bharat" forward, Swachhata Abhiyan was rolled out on 13th and 14th July, 2019 in the Parliament House Complex by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and the officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat. The commencement of this Abhiyan was an attempt to fulfil Gandhi ji's dreams of cleanliness as well as to take the message of cleanliness to each and every household.

4. International Yoga Day Celebration

134 Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha along with officers and staff practised yoga exercises for the first time in the premises of Parliament on 21st June, 2019 to mark the International Day of Yoga.

5. Organising Fit India Campaign

Fit India Campaign was organized on 6th September, 2019 near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi ji in the Parliament House Complex on the call of the Hon'ble Prime Minister in which several Hon'ble Members, officers and staff participated. Hon'ble Speaker urged all to keep themselves fit and to inspire their family members and colleagues to adopt healthy life-styles.

6. Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhi Ji

A function was organized in the Parliament House on 2nd October, 2019 to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi ji. As per the instructions of the Hon'ble Speaker, Charkha Spinning was demonstrated and an exhibition-cum-sales counter was installed for three days by Khadi and Village Industry Commission to promote Khadi.

7. Promotion of cashless transactions in the Parliament House Estate

Cashless transaction was promoted to ensure digital payments inside the Parliament House Estate. The cashless Point of Sale (PoS) machines were provided to snacks counter in the Central Hall, snacks bar of the Railway catering located in Parliament House and the Catering Units located in Parliament House Annexe and Parliament Library Building for the use of Hon'ble Members.

8. Commencement of cashless Service in the State Bank of India

The State Bank of India has completed its preparation to start its cashless service in the Parliament House. The State Bank of India is providing pre-paid Rupay Cards to all of its customers for the Parliament canteen under a special digital solution.

9. Tree Plantation Event

On 26th July, 2019 a tree plantation event was organized in the Parliament House Complex. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Speaker, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Defence Minister, the Hon'ble Home Minister and several other Union Ministers planted saplings.

Hon'ble Speaker personally requested each and every Hon'ble Member of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha to plant a tree, so that the message of tree plantation may reach every village and town of the country. All these saplings will grow into full-fledged green trees by the time the term of this Lok Sabha comes to an end.

10. Celebration of 70th Anniversary of Constitution Day

In 2019, the Central Hall of Parliament bore witness to a special programme to mark the 70th Anniversary of adoption of the Constitution of India. On this occasion, the Hon'ble President, the Hon'ble Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Speaker and the Hon'ble Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha participated in the programme.

A digital exhibition was also organized in the Parliament Library Building.

On this occasion, the Hon'ble President released a digital calendar of the year 2020 "India's Constitution @70" published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

11. Flag hoisting ceremony at the Parliament House on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day

In a historic initiative, the Lok Sabha Speaker hoisted the National Flag near the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Parliament House on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day. Congratulating the people, Shri Birla said, "there is an atmosphere of joy and happiness across the country on this festive occasion". Shri Birla urged the people to resolve to work collectively towards building of a Naya Bharat and to become partners in the development of the nation on the occasion of Independence Day. Earlier, Shri Birla was presented the Guard of Honour by a contingent of the Central Reserve Police Force. He also paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament House.

VII. Austerity in Lok Sabha Secretariat

Emphasizing upon financial reforms, the Hon'ble Speaker has suggested on many occasions to reduce expenditure in Lok Sabha Secretariat.

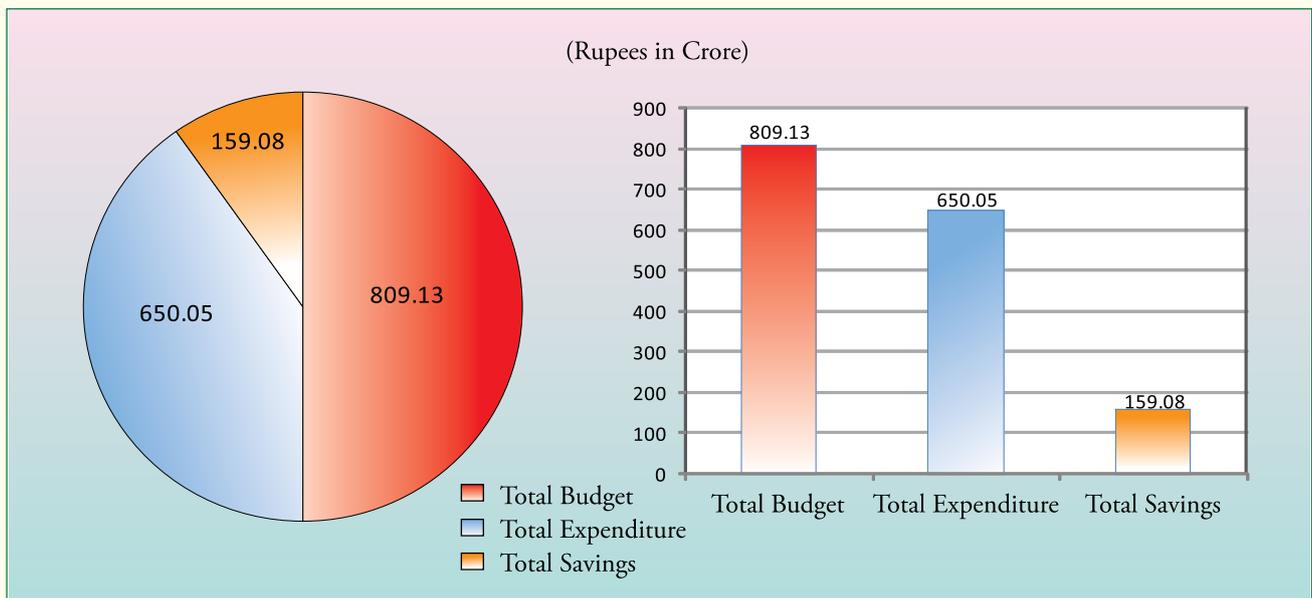
An amount of Rs. 650.05 crore has been spent out of the total budget grant of Rs. 809.13 crore under the Budget Grants (Demand No. 78) of the Lok Sabha during the last financial year 2019-20. There has been a total saving of Rs. 159.08 crore. In other words, 80.34% of the total budget grant has been spent and 19.66% has been saved.

In the total budget estimate for the next financial year 2020-21, Rs. 163.80 crore is estimated to be saved which is 20.2 percent of the total budget.

These savings in the Lok Sabha budget are basically an outcome of the campaign for reducing the consumption of paper, adopting austerity in the travel expenses of present and former Members of Parliament (including expenditure on railway travel), regulating the expenditure incurred on hotels, transport etc. during the study tours of Parliamentary Committees and abolishing the subsidy given to the Parliamentary canteen.

Under the budget head of CPWD, the expenditure for various schemes including expenditure on daily supply of flowers in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs was also cut.

Graphic Diagram of the Budget, Expenditure and Savings for the year 2019-20



VIII. Proposal for a new building of Parliament House

On 5th August, 2019, the Hon'ble Speaker had informed the Members in the House that the present Parliament House has completed its 92 glorious years. Since independence, the evolution of democracy has increased the responsibilities of this most sacred institution of the country which has also raised the expectations of the people.

The Hon'ble Speaker thus urged upon the Government to celebrate the 75th anniversary of independence in the new building of Parliament House.

IX. Interaction with State Legislatures

1. Meeting of Presiding Officers of State Legislatures in New Delhi

Under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Speaker, a meeting of the Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures was held in the Parliament House Annexe on 28th August, 2019. All Presiding Officers were in agreement that a stringent law is needed to ban MPs or MLAs from entering the 'Well'. Many important issues were discussed in this meeting. Among them were progressive use of communication and information technology in the legislatures, disruption of the House proceedings and financial independence of the Legislatures, etc.

The Hon'ble Speaker, constituted four Committees of Presiding Officers for a detailed discussion on the following issues:

- (a) Committee to consider matters related to the smooth functioning of the House, headed by Hon'ble Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- (b) Committee to evaluate and issue guidelines for the use of communication and information technology in the functioning of legislatures, headed by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly.
- (c) Committee to investigate matters related to financial independence of Legislature Secretariates, headed by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.
- (d) Committee on the provisions of the 10th Schedule (Anti Defection) of the Constitution.

2. Resolutions adopted at the 79th Conference of the Presiding Officers held in Dehradun

The 79th Conference of the Presiding Officers and Secretaries of the Legislative Bodies of India was organized by the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly in Dehradun in December, 2019. This Conference was quite successful. Many important topics were discussed in this Conference and the following resolutions were adopted:

- (a) Resolution to formulate stricter rules by all the Legislative Assemblies, Legislative Councils, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the House and to prevent disruptions, and make rules for immediate action against Members who enter the 'Well' *i.e.* the *sanctum sanctorum* of the House.
- (b) To set up a Committee of Presiding Officers to bring uniformity in the rules of all the Legislatures.
- (c) Hon'ble Members in all Legislatures to be given an opportunity to raise more issues of urgent public importance through the Zero Hour.
- (d) To take advantage of the expertise of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in the digitisation of historical documents and records of various State Legislatures.
- (e) A proposal for training of up to three years under the capacity building programme for Members of all Legislatures by PRIDE of Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- (f) A proposal to give Outstanding MLA Award annually on the lines of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.
- (g) To commemorate the completion of 100 years of this Conference in the coming year 2021, there is a proposal to organise a grand centenary celebration on 14-15 September, 2021.

- (h) Implementation of communication and information technology related work in all Legislatures of India through the e-NEVA project will be done by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Through this, all the Legislative Assemblies, Legislative Councils, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will be able to connect digitally.

3. 7th CPA India Region Conference, Lucknow

A two-day 7th CPA India Region Conference on the subject 'Role of MLAs' was held in January, 2020 in Lucknow. Various branches of the CPA India Region and CPA branches from Australia and South East Asia regions also participated in the event.

During the Conference, Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla said that such an exchange of ideas and experiences helps in strengthening democracy by overcoming the challenges faced by the MLAs. He mentioned that the representatives were unanimous that Assemblies should function smoothly without any interruption. For this, rules can be formulated and efforts should be made to bring uniformity in the rules of Legislatures. Referring to the decisions taken at the Conferences, Shri Birla said that the debates of all the Legislatures including the Parliament would be brought on one platform. In addition, all public representatives were unanimous that such Conferences should be held at the level of Gram Panchayats, Municipalities & Districts as well.

4. Discussion with Presiding Officers through Video Conference

A video conference was held with the Presiding Officers of the State Legislative Assemblies on 21st April, 2020. During the Conference, the Lok Sabha Speaker, had a detailed discussion with the Presiding Officers on Parliamentary Calendar, Covid-19 pandemic and several other issues. During the deliberations, the Hon'ble Speaker and the Presiding Officers of State Legislatures shared their experiences.

The primary object was to discuss the role of the Legislatures in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic and the role of MPs and MLAs in aiding the relief work in their respective constituencies. Besides, it was also discussed to provide all possible help to remove the difficulties being faced in the relief works to the affected people.

In this video conference, 27 Speakers and one Chairperson of the State Legislatures participated. The following were the main points of the discussion:—

- (a) Four Committees of Presiding Officers constituted earlier to look into the matters related to interruptions in the House, autonomy of the Legislatures, Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and information technology have done a commendable job in finalizing their reports which will be submitted by them soon.
- (b) Feasibility of extensive use of digital technology in legislative and financial functions and for routine tasks like meetings and file systems was considered.
- (c) Success achieved in mitigating the damage caused by Coronavirus disease in India by working together and efficient implementation of disaster management was discussed.
- (d) India's initiative to help other countries by supplying medicines and other essential items in accordance with the ancient Indian philosophy of '*Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam*' was appreciated.
- (e) A decision was taken to set up control rooms for real time exchange of information between the State Legislative Assemblies and Parliament – so that the MLAs and MPs are aided in discharging their duties more effectively in dealing with the situation arising out of Covid-19.

5. Covid Control Room

In view of the crisis arising out of Covid-19 pandemic and based on the discussions held with the Presiding Officers of the State Legislatures and for ensuring better coordination of relief work being done by the MLAs and MPs across the country, Covid Control Rooms have been set up in the Parliament House and State Legislative Assemblies. These Control Rooms are working efficiently in providing assistance to the affected people.

6. Proposal to organize a grand function during the Centenary year of Public Accounts Committee

The Public Accounts Committee was first constituted in the year 1921. There is a proposal to organize a grand function on completion of 100 years in 2021 which will be attended by distinguished dignitaries including the Chairpersons of the Public Accounts Committee of the State Legislatures and the Chairpersons of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

X. Strengthening Parliamentary Diplomacy

Under the directions of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, following initiatives were taken during the 17th Lok Sabha with a view to make meaningful and purposeful contribution in parliamentary affairs at the global level:

- (a) Hon'ble Speaker led the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Fourth South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) held in Male, Maldives on 1st and 2nd September, 2019. Besides participating in major debates, Hon'ble Speaker held bilateral meetings with the Speakers of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- (b) Hon'ble Speaker led an eight member Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the 141st Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly in Belgrade (Serbia) in October, 2019. During the Assembly, Hon'ble Speaker participated in the General Debate on the overall theme of "Strengthening International Law: Parliamentary Roles and mechanisms and the contribution of Regional Cooperation". It was the first time in the 130 years' history of the IPU that a Speaker of Indian Parliament addressed the General Assembly of IPU in Hindi. Hon'ble Speaker addressed the Breakaway session of the 'Speakers' Dialogue on Development and Economy' during the 141st IPU Assembly. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, for the first time in the history of IPU, India's proposal for a Resolution on Emergency Item was adopted by the Assembly. During the Assembly, India's proposal for a Resolution on "Addressing Climate Change" received the highest number of affirmative votes and was successfully included in the agenda of the Assembly as an Emergency Item.

During the Assembly, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha held bilateral meetings with the following dignitaries: (i) Prime Minister of Serbia; (ii) Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia; (iii) Speaker of Parliament of Iran; (iv) President of Chamber of Deputies of Mexico; (v) Speaker of Parliament of Bangladesh; and (vi) President of IPU.

- (c) Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha participated in the 6th G-20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P-20) held in Tokyo, Japan from 3rd to 5th November, 2019. During the Summit, Hon'ble Speaker, delivered a Keynote Address on the subject "Utilization of Innovative Technology

towards a Human-Centered Future Society" and made a Statement on the subject "Efforts towards Resolution of Global Challenges and Achievement of the SDGs (Financing for Development, Need for Transparent and Effective Government etc.)." Hon'ble Speaker addressed the august gathering in Hindi.

- (d) During the year, Parliamentary Delegations of Maldives and Canada visited India and met with Hon'ble Speaker. Ambassadors of Russia, Serbia and Egypt and President of the France-India Parliamentary Friendship Group also met with the Hon'ble Speaker.
- (e) Hon'ble Speaker addressed a letter on 27th January, 2020 to the President of European Parliament on the impending discussion on a Joint Motion for Resolution on the Indian Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 introduced in European Parliament. He informed that any action by European Parliament on the Indian Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 would create a unhealthy precedent of a Legislature interfering in the internal matter of another sovereign Legislature. A letter was simultaneously addressed on 27th January, 2020 to the President, Inter-Parliamentary Union for advising the President, European Parliament in the same context.

XI. Administrative Initiatives

The Hon'ble Speaker conducted an intensive review of the different Branches of Lok Sabha Secretariat in May-June 2020 with a view towards ensuring efficiency in the functioning of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. As part of this exercise, the Hon'ble Speaker sought comprehensive details of the functioning of the Branches from the senior officers concerned and held discussions with them. He heard the views of the officers and gave several valuable suggestions and instructions for the smooth functioning of Branches. The Hon'ble Speaker directed the Branches to make their functioning effective and take such initiatives that prove to be directly beneficial to the Hon'ble Members in discharging their parliamentary duties. The Hon'ble Speaker also said that the deserving and diligent officers will be suitably rewarded so as to further develop the competence and skills of the officers and staff of the Secretariat and to boost their morale.

XII. Parliament Library

There is a huge collection of books in the Parliament Library with the facility of a large reading room for the Hon'ble Members. The Hon'ble Speaker has directed officers of the Parliament Library that they should contact all Hon'ble Members and provide details of the rich resources and the facilities available in the Parliament Library and urge them to make optimum use of these facilities.

As per the instructions given recently by the Hon'ble Speaker, paragraphs are issued in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Bulletin Part-II every fortnight seeking suggestions from the Hon'ble Members for adding more books in the library. The Member Services Branch (Information and Communication Centre) has been asked to contact the Members in this regard. This paragraph is being uploaded on the Members' Portal and SMSs are also being sent to the Members.

In pursuance of the instructions given by the Hon'ble Speaker for amending the existing procedure for the selection of new books to be added in the Parliament Library, the CB-I Branch has been asked to constitute a Library Sub-Committee for this purpose.

Eminent personalities are offered floral tributes in the Central Hall of the Parliament from time to time. On the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker, book exhibitions related to 10 such eminent personalities have been held so far.

XIII. Digitisation and Computerization

1. Parliament Digital Library

Under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Speaker, the Parliament Digital Library has gained momentum and become comprehensive and development oriented. All parliamentary debates and other documents from the year 1858 to 1952 and from the first Lok Sabha to the Seventeenth Lok Sabha are available on the portal *eparlib.nic.in*. Besides, the digital editions of the President's Address, the budget speeches, the reports of the Parliamentary Committees alongwith the books published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat are available.

On the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker, Members of Parliament were apprised extensively about this invaluable initiatives in the year 2019. The information about collection on the portal is also published in the daily bulletins issued by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

A help desk was set up in the Reading Room of the Parliament Library to give assistance to the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament. Besides, information was provided to the Hon'ble Members through SMS, e-mail, MP's portal and the Lok Sabha Television. The personal staff of the Hon'ble Members was also provided with the information about the Digital Library in the training programmes held for them.

Till now, more than 10 lakh people have visited this portal. There are about 40 lakh pages on the portal, which is being increased continuously.

2. Computerization of the Secretariat Services

Since the constitution of the 17th Lok Sabha, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Hon'ble Speaker for e-Parliament and paperless Secretariat by means of computerisation.

Some major initiatives are listed below:

- (a) *Online Application for Lok Sabha Secretariat Pool Accommodation:* An application programme has been developed for Lok Sabha Employees for managing the House allotment, etc.
- (b) *Dues/No Dues Management System:* Online programme to issue no dues certificate to the Members has been developed. Online programme for issue of no dues certificate to the employees of LSS is being developed.
- (c) *Member's Portal:* A Responsive Members' Portal has been developed which is accessible to all the Members on their mobiles. Additional facilities have been created for uploading amendments to the Bills, Research/Reference notes, Audio-video clips of the Members' participation in the House, etc. Almost 95 percent of the Members are using this portal and 335 Members are sending e-Notices through this portal. An account module has been developed, detailing the payments made to the Members like salary slip, TA, DA and medical reimbursement, etc.
- (d) Members' participation in the Business of the House is regularly updated on the Lok Sabha Home Page so that the people are able to access information about the performance of their public representatives in the parliamentary proceedings in Lok Sabha. Information regarding the participation of Hon'ble Members in various parliamentary proceedings such as the Zero Hour, Private Members' business, Vote of Thanks, General Discussion on the Budget etc. has been made available on the Lok Sabha Home Page. This will increase the accountability of Hon'ble Members towards their constituents.

- (e) *Member's Participation in the Business of the House*: A database has been created to access the Members participation in debates on various parameters viz. Zero Hour, Matters Under Rule 184, 377, Short Duration Discussion Under Rule 193, etc.
- (f) *Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) website*: A new website has been created to highlight the activities of the IPG.
- (g) *PPR Website*: A special website has been developed for the Press and Public Relations Branch to highlight the activities related to Press and Media and Hon'ble Speaker.

XIV. Lok Sabha Television

Several new programmes were started by Lok Sabha Television during the 17th Lok Sabha, like Question Hour Special-on the basis of the questions asked from various Ministries during the Question Hour; Discussion Session- discussions with the Members of Parliament just after the adjournment of the proceedings of the House; Loktantra Chaupal- interaction with the people on issues related to democracy; Sansad Ke Galiyare Se- Walk the talk with the Ministers and dignitaries in the corridors of the Parliament; Madam MP-English programme based on the achievements and the journey of the Women Members of Parliament; Hauslon ki Udaan -Hindi Programme based on the achievements and the journey of the Women Members of Parliament; Katha Ek Pustak Ki-Introduction to exceptional books by distinguished persons; Abhinandan Corona Veer- Salutation to the frontline warriors engaged in the struggle with Corona; Haarega Corona, Jeetega Bharat- messages of distinguished persons about the war against Covid-19, Kala Setu- the messages of distinguished artists about the war against Covid-19, expressed through art.

Use of Social Media

The Hon'ble Speaker has directed that various social media platforms like Youtube, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram should be used for Hon'ble Members. As per the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker, several new facets have been added to the Lok Sabha Television. Now, it is also available on Youtube channel. Live streaming of the channel has started on Youtube. In this era of social media, this medium is bringing the live telecast of Lok Sabha proceedings to lakhs of spectators. Besides, the presence of Lok Sabha Television on social media has become more effective during the last few years connecting with lakhs of spectators through its Youtube channel, Twitter, Facebook page and LSTV app.

Lok Sabha Television has started many new endeavours during the previous year such as Mobile Journalism (Mojo), presentation of programmes through Stream Yard App, and the use of Skype to interact with guests from other countries.

It is also proposed to provide information about the proceedings of the House to the Hon'ble Members through the App.

XV. Other Initiatives

Provision of Online Visitors' Gallery Pass for Visitors

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker, keeping in view security and convenience, 'Visitors Gallery Pass' would be provided online for people visiting the Parliament House Complex from the forthcoming Monsoon Session. This provision will prevent unnecessary crowding in the Reception Hall, especially when the Parliament is in session. This issue was also raised in the meeting of GPC where almost all the Members gave their concurrence.

CONCLUSION

The first year of the 17th Lok Sabha has been historic in several ways. By giving opportunities to the newly elected Members, first time Members and women Members to raise the concerns of their constituents during Zero Hour and by encouraging their participation during debates, the Hon'ble Speaker has ensured that each member gets an opportunity to speak in the House. This is a positive step in our parliamentary system and has been welcomed by Leaders across the political spectrum. Even parties having only a few members in the House have been given adequate time to express their views.

The Leader of the House, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Leaders of all the parties in the House and all the Hon'ble Members have made positive contributions in the smooth running of the proceedings of the House due to which there has been an unprecedented increase in the productivity of the House during the first year of the 17th Lok Sabha. The House witnessed purposive debates and in-depth discussions on various issues of public interest. The Hon'ble Speaker received full cooperation from the Hon'ble Members from across party lines in running the House smoothly which has enhanced the dignity and gravitas of the House.

On the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker, many new initiatives were taken during the last year. While efforts are on to construct a new building for meeting the requirements of the future. Parliament precincts have also been given a facelift through dynamic Facade Lighting.

Additionally, some other important initiatives have been taken which include setting up of an Information and Communication Centre to facilitate the Members, holding Briefing Sessions on proposed legislations, setting up of a Control Room to coordinate efforts being made by the Members to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic, etc.

This Booklet highlights the novel initiatives undertaken during the first year of the 17th Lok Sabha by the Hon'ble Speaker.

