

Session Review - 16th



(17-03-2003 to 07-04-2003)

The session commenced on the 17th of March 2003 and was adjourned on the 7th April 2003. The House sat for a total of 14 sittings. On the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee the sitting scheduled for 18th March was cancelled due to the festival of 'Holi'. The House compensated for this by sitting for an additional day and took up the business listed for 18th March on the 7th April 2003.

The proceedings of the House were conducted smoothly and the House was able to utilize 97.5% of the scheduled business time of 46 hours. A brief summary of the various business disposed by the House during the session is as follows: -

Lieutenant Governor's Address: The Session, being the first of the year, the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Vijai Kapoor addressed the House on Monday, 17th March 2003. Four days were set aside for the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the Lt. Governor's address in which 23 members participated. The Motion of Thanks was unanimously adopted on the 3rd April 2003.

Annual Budget: The Finance Minister presented the annual budget for the year 2003-2004 on 25th March 2003. Debate on the budget was held on 26th, 27th and 28th March 2003 and seventeen members participated in the debate. The Budget was passed on the 28th March 2003.

Obituary References: The House made obituary references on the passing away of the following:

1. Shri Babu Ram Solanki, former Metropolitan Councillor (1977-1980 and 1983-90)
2. Shri Nand Lal Choudhary, former Metropolitan Councillor (1983-90)
3. Shri Inder Mohan Bhardwaj, former Metropolitan Councillor (1977-1980)
4. Shri Manohar Lal Khurana, former Metropolitan Councillor (1983-90)
5. Dr. Vashisht Kumar Pushkarna, former Metropolitan Councillor (1968-1972 and 1977-1980)
6. Ms. Kalpana Chawla, First Indian Woman Astronaut
7. Shri Brij Mohan, veteran freedom fighter and political leader.

The House also paid tributes on the 24th of March 2003 to the freedom fighters on the occasion of the "Shahidi Diwas".

Tributes were also paid on 25th March, 2003 to those who were killed in terrorists attack on innocent people in Nandimarg in Jammu and Kashmir. Two minutes silence was also observed for the departed souls.

Questions: The Secretariat received notices of 902 questions out of which 758 were admitted. 260 notices were listed as starred and 486 as unstarred questions. 12 questions were clubbed. 144 notices were disallowed. Out of the 260 starred questions 87 questions were raised on the floor of the House and replied to by the concerned minister. 337 supplementary questions were asked on these questions.

Committee Reports: Eight Reports of the following House Committees were presented to the House and adopted:

1. Twelfth Report of the Business Advisory Committee
2. Fourteenth Report of the Private Members Bills and Resolutions Committee
3. First Report of the General Purposes Committee
4. Sixth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances
5. Tenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee
6. Second and Third Report of the Committee on Government Undertakings
7. Seventh Report of the Committee on the Welfare of SC/ST/OBCs.

Papers Laid: The Chief Minister and other Ministers laid copies of 06 Reports and 16 Notifications issued by their respective departments on the Table of the House.

Legislative Business: Besides the Appropriation Bills the following Bills were considered and passed by the House:

1. The Salary and Allowances of the Chief Whip in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Bill, 2003.
2. The Industrial Disputes (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2003.
3. The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
4. The Ministers of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Salaries and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
5. The Delhi Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

Special Mentions: 126 Special Mentions on various matters of public importance were raised by the Members. In 33 cases Chief Minister or Ministers replied or intervened to clarify the position on the floor of the House.

Discussion on a Matter of Public Interest (Motion Under Rule 107): The House discussed and adopted the following Motion unanimously on the 21st March 2003:

“In accordance with the decision of the Hon’ble Supreme Court and to perform the duties of an ideal public representative, this House resolves that all Members of this House should declare for

the general public, their educational, financial and criminal antecedents if any, through the Hon'ble Speaker every year.”

Government Resolution: The House adopted the following Resolution unanimously on the 25th of March 2003:

“This House resolves that in future no demolition of jhuggies shall take place in Delhi either by the departments, agencies under the control of the Union Government or the State Government without the matter being referred to a Coordination Committee to be set up for the purpose by the Government of Delhi in consultation with the Lieutenant Governor in order to protect and safeguard the homes of lakhs of innocent and marginalized persons residing in these clusters.”

Short Duration Discussion: Short Duration Discussion on following matters of public importance were taken up by the House:

1. Problems relating to the power supply in the Capital
2. Drinking water problem in the Capital.

Private Members Bills: The following Private Members Bills, which had been introduced in the previous sessions, were considered on the 21st April 2003. However, all the Members in-charge withdrew the Bills with the leave of the House:

1. The Delhi Lokayukta and Uplokayukta (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002
2. The Delhi Reservation for other Backward Classes in Committees and Self Employment Schemes Bill, 2002
3. The Prohibition of Extravagant Expenditure on Marriage Bill, 2002

Private Members Resolutions: The sitting on 4th April was allotted for taking up the Private Members Resolutions. The House adopted the following Resolutions on that day:

1. “This House resolves that necessary legislation be enacted by the Parliament of India to protect the dignity of women, empower them and save them from sexual exploitation. It further resolves that through this legislation an end should be put to attempts being made to project them as objects of desire in the publications, electronic media and advertisements.”
2. “This House resolves that in accordance with the need and availability of land, mini sewer treatment plants be installed on all major drains.”
3. “This House resolves that the Delhi Development Authority be brought under the control of the Government of Delhi and a separate Housing Board also be constituted under Government of Delhi.”

The following Private Members' Resolutions were defeated by voice-vote:

1. “This House resolves that a separate ‘Delhi Board of Secondary Education’ as in other states be constituted for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the examinations for the year 2003-2004 be conducted by this Board.”
2. “This House resolves that in order to give effect to their constitutional rights all children up to the age of 14 years should be provided free and compulsory education.”

Election to Financial Committees: As per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business seven Members were to be elected to the Financial Committees. However, as only seven nominations each for the Financial Committees were received, all the nominees were declared elected unopposed.

The House was adjourned *sine-die* on the 7th of April 2003 with the rendering of the National Anthem.



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