

QUESTION BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS PERTAINING TO QUESTIONS – 3rd SESSION OF 17th LOK SABHA

The Third Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha commenced on 31 January, 2020 and was scheduled to conclude on 03 April, 2020. A total of 29 sittings were fixed for Question Hour during the Session. However, in the wake of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the country, the House adjourned sine-die on 23 March, 2020. Consequently, the sittings for the Question Hour were reduced to 21 and out of these, Starred Questions could not be called for oral answers in 4 sittings. Following are the highlights of the Question Hour pertaining to the Third Session of 17th Lok Sabha:-

1. **Notices received and examined** -The notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions were received w.e.f. 16 January, 2020. A total of 33156 notices (SQ and USQ) and 09 Short Notice Questions (SNQ) were examined. The maximum number of notices of Questions included for ballot in a day was 1352 for 16 March, 2020 which is significantly higher than the First Session when the number was 940, and only marginally lower than the Second Session when the number was 1370.
2. **e-Notices**-The Third Session witnessed an increase in receiving notices of Questions electronically i.e. e-Notices. Out of 32967 notices received (excluding split Questions), 21195 (which is 64.29 percent) were e-notices. This percentage is an improvement over the First and Second Sessions when the percentage of e-notices was 43.77 and 59.97, respectively. Thus, continuous efforts and achievements are being made to achieve the goal of e-Parliament and paperless secretariat.
3. **Members' participation**-The participation of members in terms of number of Members against whose names questions were admitted, both Starred and Unstarred, increased to 423 Members in the Third Session as compared to 356 in the First Session and 402 in the Second Session. A maximum of 335 names of Members were included for the ballot held for the sitting on 17 March, 2020 which is also the highest during the 17th Lok Sabha.

4. **Starred and Unstarred Lists and Maximum no. of replies by Ministries-** A total of 419 Questions were included in the lists of Starred Questions and 4823 in the lists of Unstarred Questions. The maximum number of Members whose names appeared in the Lists of Questions is 296 for the sitting on 20 March 2020, which is again the maximum for any day in any Session during the 17th Lok Sabha. The Minister of Finance and Minister of Health and Family Welfare answered the maximum number of questions both Starred and Unstarred i.e. 291, followed by the Minister of Human Resource Development who answered 280 Questions.

5. **Orally answered and Supplementary Questions-** A total of 98 Starred Questions, on an average of 4.9 per sitting were orally replied during the Session. The maximum number of Starred Questions orally answered in a single day was 9 on 03 February, 2020 and 13 March, 2020.

A total of 321 Supplementary Questions on an average of 3.28 per Starred Question discussed, were asked by Members during the Session. This average of Supplementary Questions asked during the Session is also higher than the previous two Sessions of the 17th Lok Sabha. During the 3rd Session, a total of 139 Members raised Supplementary Questions on an average of 1.42 Members per Question. The average in this regard was 1.16 and 1.21 Members for 1st and 2nd Sessions, respectively.