

RAJYA SABHA

Parliamentary Bulletin

PART - I

(TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHTH SESSION)

No. 5779]

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

Brief Record of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Rajya Sabha held on the 21st July, 2025

11-00 a.m.

1. National Anthem

National Anthem was played.

[^]11-02 a.m.

2. Oath or Affirmation

The following Members made and subscribed oath and took their seats in the House:-

ASSAM

1. Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya
2. Shri Kanad Purkayastha

NOMINATED

3. Dr. Meenakshi Jain
4. Shri C. Sadananda Master
5. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla

11-15 a.m.

3. Birthday Greetings

The Chairman extended greetings to the following Members on the occasion of their Birthday: -

1. Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee (20th July);
2. Shri Rajeev Shukla (20th July);
3. Shrimati Sangeeta Yadav (20th July); and
4. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, *Leader of the Opposition*.

[^]From 11-01 a.m. to 11-02 a.m. – some points were raised.

11-20 a.m.

4. Obituary References

The Chairman made references to the passing away of —

1. Shri C. Perumal, (ex-Member);
2. Dr. K. Kasturirangan, (ex-Member);
3. Shri Ronald Sapa Tlau, (ex-Member);
4. Shri Nepaldev Bhattacharjee, (ex-Member);
5. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa;
6. Shri Thennala G. Balakrishna Pillai; and
7. Shri Vijaykumar Rupani;

The House observed silence, all Members standing, as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11-27 a.m.

5. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman made the following opening remarks: -

“Hon’ble Member, as we convene for the 268th Session of the Rajya Sabha, I extend my warm greetings to each one of you.

Since our last session, the tragic and cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam on 22nd April took innocent lives, deeply wounding our collective conscience.

In response, our nation stood united, rallying behind Operation Sindoor to neutralize terrorist hideouts across the border.

The resolute bravery of our armed forces, combined with the steadfast solidarity of our people, powerfully reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to protecting the unity and integrity of our Republic.

Hon'ble Members, with deep sorrow, I refer to the tragic crash of Air India Flight 171 on 12th June, claiming 240 lives. This heartbreaking tragedy has brought immense grief nationwide. While investigations continue, we mourn this profound loss. On behalf of the House, I offer heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and to all affected by this tragedy.

This Session, comprising 21 sittings, includes a recess from 12th to 17th August for Independence Day celebrations.

A number of important legislative proposals are scheduled for consideration, and four days have been allocated for Private Members' Business, offering a platform for individual Members to raise vital issues and introduce legislative initiatives.

A thriving democracy cannot sustain constant acrimony. Political tension must be reduced, as confrontation is not the essence of politics. While political parties may pursue the same goals through different approaches, no one in India opposes the nation's interests.

I urge all political parties to foster bonhomie and mutual respect, avoiding unbecoming language or personal attacks against leaders on television or elsewhere. Such behavior contradicts our civilizational essence.

Dialogue and discussion, not conflict, are the way forward.

Internal fighting strengthens our enemies and provides material to divide us.

India's historical strength lies in discourse, dialogue, and deliberation, which should guide our Parliament.

I urge all political parties, ruling and opposition, to engage in constructive politics for Bharat's greater progress.

With your cooperation and active participation, I am confident that this Monsoon Session will be productive and meaningful.”

11-30 a.m.

6. Resignation by Member

The Chairman made the following announcement in the House: —

"Hon'ble Members I have to inform Members I had received a letter dated the 1st of July, 2025 from Shri Sanjeev Arora, Member, representing the State of Punjab, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. I have accepted his resignation *w.e.f.* the said date.”

11-31 a.m.

7. Papers Laid on the Table

The following papers were laid on the Table: —

1. A statement (in English and Hindi) showing the following Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Two Hundred and Sixty Seventh Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President: —

- (1) The Appropriation Bill, 2025
- (2) The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2025
- (3) The Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2025
- (4) The Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2025
- (5) The Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2025
- (6) The Finance Bill, 2025
- (7) The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2025
- (8) The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- (9) The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- (10) The "Tribhuvan" Sahkari University Bill, 2025
- (11) The Boilers Bill, 2025
- (12) The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025
- (13) The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- (14) The Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025
- (15) The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- (16) The Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025

2. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Coal Notification No. G.S.R. 323(E), dated the 20th May, 2025, publishing the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2025, under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

3. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Defence Notification No. S.R.O. 10(E), dated the 27th May, 2025, publishing the Inter-services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Rules, 2025, under Section 15 of the Inter-services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, 2023.

4. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers: -

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi, for the year 2024-25, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.

5. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (No. 1 of 2025), promulgated by the President on the 9th June, 2025 under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 123 of the Constitution.

#11-45 a.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 12-00 Noon

12-00 Noon

8. Starred Questions

Starred Question Nos. 1 to 4 were orally answered. Answer to remaining Starred Question Nos. 5 to 15 were laid on the Table.

9. Unstarred Questions

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 1 to 160 were laid on the Table.

1-00 p.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 2-00 p.m.

10. Panel of Vice-Chairpersons

The Vice-Chairperson (Dr. Sasmit Patra) announced that the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons had been re-constituted with the following Members: —

- 1. Shrimati Rajani Ashokrao Patil;
- 2. Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak;
- 3. Shrimati Sunetra Ajit Pawar;
- 4. Shrimati Kiran Choudhry;
- 5. Dr. Sasmit Patra;
- 6. Dr. Dinesh Sharma;
- 7. Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak; and
- 8. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari.

From 11-32 a.m. to 11-45 a.m. – some points were raised.

2-01 p.m.

11. Government Bill — Passed

The Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, as passed by the Lok Sabha

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, *Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways* moved motion for consideration of the Bills of Lading Bill, 2025.

The following Members took part in the discussion: —

2-11 p.m.	1.	Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel
2-26 p.m.	2.	Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy
2-28 p.m.	3.	Dr. M. Thambidurai
2-31 p.m.	4.	Shri Arun Singh
2-49 p.m.	5.	Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade
3-05 p.m.	6.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
3-11 p.m.	7.	Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha
3-15 p.m.	8.	Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju
3-18 p.m.	9.	Shri Niranjana Bishi

3-23 p.m.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal replied to the discussion.

3-36 p.m.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha, was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were adopted.

The Preamble, the Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were adopted

3-40 p.m.

The motion moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal that the Bill, be passed was adopted and the Bill, was passed.

3-41 p.m.

12. Special Mentions

The following Special Mentions were made:-

3-41 p.m.	1.	Dr. Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade	Demand for framing of necessary Rules to regulate Matrimonial websites.
3-44 p.m.	2.	Shrimati Sangeeta Yadav	Need for strengthening cooperative sugar mills in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar.
3-46 p.m.	3.	Dr. Kalpana Saini	Ill effects of increasing digital education on the health of eyes of school going children.
3-47 p.m.	4.	Dr. Bhim Singh	Demand for conferring Bharat Ratna to the national heroes - Veer Savarkar, Swami Sahajanand

			Saraswati and Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw.
3-50 p.m.	5.	Dr. K. Laxman	Demand for strengthening the mechanism of Cyber Security in the country.
3-51 p.m.	6.	Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni	Need for Cancer prevention and treatment measures in rural areas of Maharashtra.
3-54 p.m.	7.	Shri A. D. Singh	Concern over poor health infrastructure for elderly population particularly in rural areas in the country.
3-57 p.m.	8.	Shri Mayankkumar Nayak	Demand to frame policy for giving annual rent or compensation to farmers affected by the Oil or Gas pipeline.
3-58 p.m.	9.	Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai	Concern over increasing number of cancer patients in the country.
4-00 p.m.	10.	Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik	Need for revision in the salary eligibility limit of Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIC).
4-02 p.m.	11.	Shri Dorjee Tshering Lepcha	Demand for development of basic infrastructure in Sikkim.
4-03 p.m.	12.	Shrimati Kiran Choudhry	Need to address traffic bottleneck at Mahipalpur on NH-48 through alternate route development.
4-05 p.m.	13.	Shri Raghav Chadha	Demand of legal right for Annual Health Checkup for every Indian.
@4-19 p.m.	14.	Dr. Sikander Kumar	Concern over increasing drug addiction in youth and its impact.
4-21 p.m.	15.	Shri Brij Lal	Demand for shifting from water-intensive crops in Uttar Pradesh and making strategies for sustainable agriculture.
4-24 p.m.	16.	Ms. Swati Maliwal	Demand to ensure open and safe playgrounds for children.
4-26 p.m.	17.	*Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu	Demand for conferring Bharat Ratna posthumously to Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Udham Singh and Shaheed Madanlal Dhingra.

@pl. see item no. 13.

*spoke in Punjabi.

Ø13. Announcements by the Chairman

The Chairman made the following announcements: -

(i) Hon'ble Members, I need to inform you that I have received notice of motion under Article 217(1)(b) read with Article 218 and Article 124 (4) of the Constitution of India, along with Section 3(1)(b) of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, to constitute a Statutory Committee for removal of Justice Yashwant Verma, Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. This has been received by me today. It is signed by more than 50 Members of the Council of States and thus it meets the numerical requirement of signing by Members of Parliament for setting in motion a process for removal of a High Court Judge. I direct the Secretary-General to find out whether a similar motion has been moved in the House of People, the Lok Sabha, and this is being done for the purpose that, under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, the procedure is different if a motion is presented in one House or if the motion is presented, on the same day, in both the Houses. If the motion is presented in the two Houses on different dates, then the motion which is presented in the House first, that alone is taken into consideration and the second motion gets non-jurisdictional.

But, if the motion is presented in both the Houses on the same day, then the provisions are different. If the motion is presented only in one House, then the Presiding Officer of that House has the competence to consider the motion and either admit or reject it. But, if a motion is presented on the same day in both the Houses, then the provisions are different. Then the right of the Speaker or the Chairman to admit or reject the motion is not there. Then the motions become property of the House. I would invite your attention in that behalf to Section 3, sub-section (2) of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 – “(2) If the motion referred to in sub-section (1) is admitted, the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman shall keep the motion pending and constitute, as soon as may be, for the purpose of making an investigation into the grounds on which the removal of a Judge is prayed for, a Committee consisting of three members of whom—

- (a) one shall be chosen from among the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court;
- (b) one shall be chosen from among the Chief Justices of the High Courts, and
- (c) one shall be a person who is, in the opinion of the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman, a distinguished jurist.”

Before that, it has been given, “(1) If notice is given of a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of a Judge signed—

- (a) in the case of a notice given in the House of the People, by not less than one hundred members of that House;
- (b) in the case of a notice given in the Council of States, by not less than fifty members of that Council;

then, the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman may, after consulting such persons, if any, as he thinks fit and after considering such materials, if any, as may be available to him, either admit the motion or refuse to admit the same.”

Coming to a motion that has been presented in both the Houses on the same day, it says, “Provided that where notices of a motion referred to in sub-section (1) are given on the

same day in both Houses of Parliament, no Committee shall be constituted unless the motion has been admitted in both Houses and where such motion has been admitted in both Houses, the Committee shall be constituted jointly by the Speaker and the Chairman.”

So, since the provisions are different, I have directed the Secretary-General to update whether such a motion has also been moved in the House of the People.

xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx

In that case, since the Hon'ble Law Minister is present here and has so indicated that a similar motion has come to be presented by requisite number of Members of Parliament of Lok Sabha, more than 100 xxx xxx xxx xxx to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, the provisions of Section 3, sub-section (2) will come into effect and the Secretary-General will take necessary steps in this direction.

(ii) Hon'ble Members, I need to inform you that in December, a Motion under Article 124 was submitted for my consideration for removal of a Judge of the High Court of Allahabad. That Motion was purportedly from 55 Members. I examined that and found that one particular Member had signed at two places. The result was that the representation, the motion, indicated there are 55 Members seeking removal, but actually it was not 55, it was only 54. So, obviously, an enquiry was conducted to find out from the Member who had signed twice allegedly. The Hon'ble Member declined his second signature and that made the matter a little more serious because it was required of me, then, to get to the bottom of the issue and find out whether the representation was meriting consideration and the process was initiated for verification of signatures and authentication. That process is under progress. I will get an update and come back to the House. I have already indicated to this august House on an earlier occasion that if the requisite number of Members who verify their signatures and the number goes above 50 or more, I would proceed and deal with the issue of a signature that has been twice there and not owned by the Member in a different manner because if a Motion carries two signatures of the same Member and the Hon'ble Member declines that he has not signed it at two places but he has signed it only at one place, the matter becomes serious and culpable. This august House has to set very high standards. If we do not live up to the highest expectations of the people, then we will be putting things under the carpet and not subjecting them to deep investigation. I will discuss with the floor leaders as to what steps this House needs to take with respect to such kinds of transgressions.

(iii) I must also indicate to this august House that there was an occasion in this House where on seat No. 222, a wad of Rs.500 notes was found. What is more surprising and deeply concerning is not that a wad of notes was found, but no one has owned it; no one has claimed it. This is quite serious. I had asked the authorities to get into the matter seriously, but it appears, now, that the matter will have to be dealt with and that too I will put before the floor leaders for further consideration and guidance.

4-28 p.m.

14. Recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee

The Vice- Chairperson (Dr. Sasmit Patra) announced the recommendations made by the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 21st July, 2025.

4-30 p.m.

15. Message from Lok Sabha - reported

Secretary-General reported to the House a message from Lok Sabha informing Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st July, 2025, adopted the following motion:—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to elect ten Members from amongst the Members of Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes for the term of one year beginning from the date of the first sitting of the Committee and do communicate to this House the names of Members so elected to the Committee."

4-31 p.m.

The House adjourned till 11-00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 22nd July, 2025.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General