

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2044
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022**

“Sitting of Parliament”

2044: Shri John Brittas

Will the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a downward trend regarding number of sittings of Parliament and State Legislature;**
- (b) if so, the details of sittings of Parliament and State Assemblies during last five years; and**
- (c) the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a) & (b) No Sir, as far as Parliament of India is concerned. As regard States Legislatures, Ministry cannot make any comments in view of Constitutional provisions regarding federal structure.

The duration of sessions of Parliament is decided by the Government keeping in view the quantum of Government and other business required to be transacted during a particular session under Article 85 of the Constitution.

While deciding the duration of Sessions, the availability of Government and other essential Business requiring consideration or approval of Parliament is kept in view. The Business available before Parliament and time required for its transaction is reviewed by BAC's of the two Houses, from time to time, and in case the Committees feel or recommend that the Business available before the House requires more time or additional sittings, the Government normally accepts such recommendations.

There was maximum number of sitting of the Parliament viz, 151 in the year 1956. It may also be noted that prior to Constitution of Parliamentary Standing Committees in 1993, the two Houses, particularly Lok Sabha used to meet for a longer duration. However, since constitution of the Parliamentary Standing Committees in the year 1993, the recess period of about four weeks intervenes the both parts of Budget Session and this period is effectively utilized by the Department related Standing Committees to examine, scrutinize and deliberate extensively on Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments etc. Earlier this period used to be included in the “number of Sittings” of Parliament for approval of Budget.

The average sittings held during the last 10 years is 63. The recess of four weeks (28 days) which intervenes to scrutinized Demands for Grants for various Ministries/Departments brings the sittings to approximately 100 days. There are 24 Parliamentary Standing Committees besides usual financial & other House committees. These committees keep on sitting throughout the year. All members of Parliament are members of some Parliamentary/Standing Committees which are like mini Parliaments where free and frank discussions and in depth scrutiny of various issues faced by the country are held. These committees meet at regular intervals throughout the year and provide ample time and opportunity to members to express their views on the subjects assigned to the committees.

Information in respect of State Legislature does not fall under purview of Govt. of India.

(c) the year wise data of sittings of Parliament excluding Parliament committee sittings held during last 5 years is as under:-

S.No.	Year	Number of Sitting	
		Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha
1	2017	61	61
2	2018	63	65
3	2019	67	65
4	2020	33*	33
5	2021	59*	58

*Sessions either could not be held or curtailed due to Covid-19 Pandemic.
