

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ

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ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು

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# Parliament adjourned ahead of schedule

MPs from States going to the polls had sought curtailment of the Budget session for campaigning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
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Both Houses of Parliament were adjourned *sine die* on Thursday nearly two weeks before schedule, keeping in mind requests made for the curtailment of the second part of the Budget session by MPs from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Puducherry and Kerala owing to the Assembly elections. The first part of the session started on January 29. The second leg started on March 8 after a break and was to run till April 8.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, in a briefing after the end of the session, said: "It was curtailed ahead of schedule due to the demands made by various political parties and Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory." The influence of the electoral contests was seen during the session with frequent references to poll issues in West Bengal during the debates.

Earlier in the day, Bhadrachari Mahtab, who was in the chair in the Lok Sabha as part of the 10-member panel

of presiding officers, commended Speaker Om Birla, who is down with COVID-19, for the arrangements made for the conduct of the House in the middle of the pandemic. In fact, while the first two days of Parliament in the second part of the session were for limited five-hour sittings, the time period of the sittings was made regular again with both Houses running concurrently.

Mr. Mahtab, in the valedictory address, revealed that

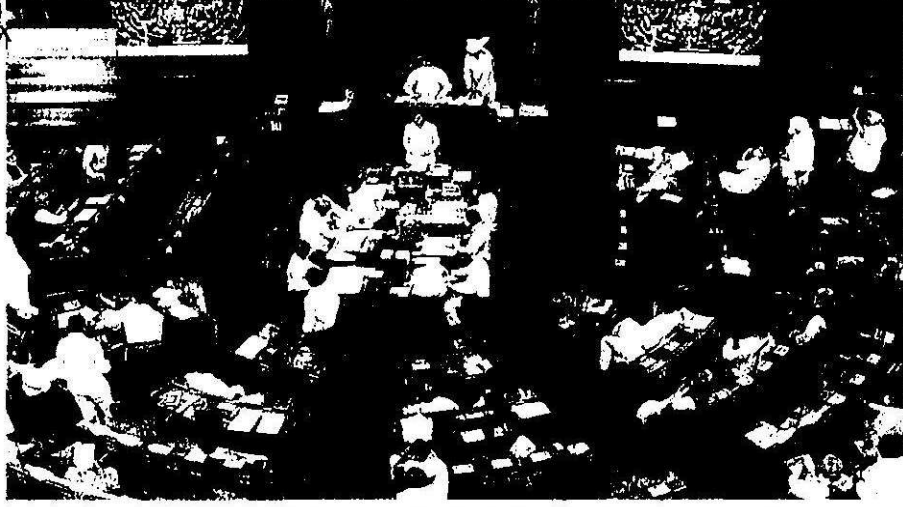
despite disruptions, the session clocked 114% in productivity with 24 sittings, which lasted over 132 hours. Seventeen government Bills were introduced and 18 passed, including the Finance and the Appropriations Bills. A total of 171 reports were tabled by various parliamentary committees and 84 starred questions were answered orally.

The tally for the Rajya Sabha was also impressive with 23 sittings, in which the House sat for 104 hours and

clocked a 90% productivity. The Upper House passed 19 Bills, spending 42% of the functional time on legislative business.

## Head to head

Though attendance was sparse in both the Houses as members mainly from election-bound States were absent, the Treasury and the Opposition benches went head to head on the strike by farmers against the three controversial farm laws and



Wrapping up business: The Lok Sabha meeting for the last day of the Budget session. -PTI

even more so with the Government of the National Capital Territory (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which seeks to add to the powers of the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi.

The Bill was passed after repeated adjournments, especially in the Rajya Sabha with even neutral parties such as the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) staging a walkout from the Upper House terming it an assault on the rights of elected State governments.

In his valedictory address Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu reminded the members that the country was "entering the 75th anniversary of Independence" and that it was "a moment of introspection".

"While this special occasion provides all of us and citizens the opportunity to cherish the values and ideals that our freedom fighters stood for and helped our country to gain freedom from the colonial rule, it also calls for serious introspection on the functioning of our legislatures and their Members," he said.