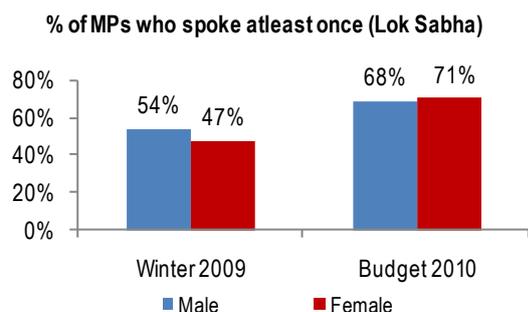


Vital Stats

Participation by MPs in Lok Sabha – Budget Session 2010

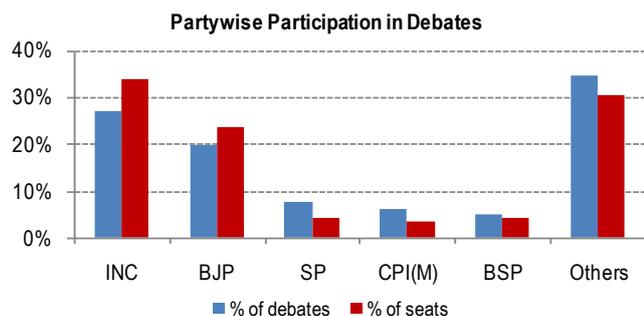
Parliament met for the Budget Session between 22nd February and 7th May with a one month recess beginning in mid-March. Apart from budget discussions, the session also saw debates on several major issues such as price rise, phone tapping and naxalism. We present some statistics from this recently concluded session on the participation by MPs in various debates.

Two of Three MPs participated in at least one debate this session in the Lok Sabha



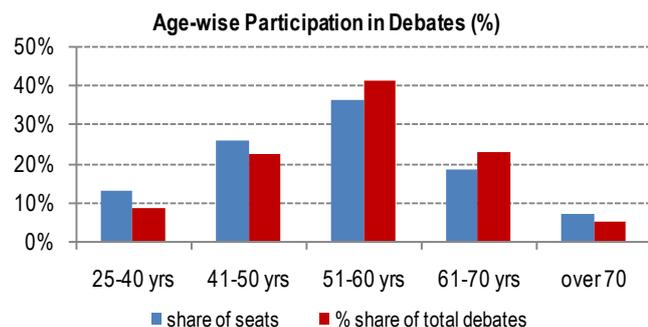
- 32% of MPs (excluding ministers) did not participate in any debates this session, compared with 47% of such MPs in the Winter Session 2009.
- 68% of men and 71% of women participated in at least one debate this session. This was higher than the previous session, when 54% of men and 47% of women participated at least once in any debate.
- Besides budget discussions, debates on price rise saw the most participation – 68 MPs spoke.
- The legislative debate which saw the highest participation from MPs was that on the National Green Tribunal Bill, 2009.

Some small parties did not raise any issue at all in the Lok Sabha this session



- Time to speak on debates is allotted according to the strength of the party in the House.
- MPs representing seven small parties (1-2 seats), did not participate in any debate this session.
- No representative of ten of the small parties took part in any of the budget debates.
- One in four MPs who spoke on any issue this session was from the Congress. One in five was from the BJP. However, this is less than their share of seats in Parliament (excluding ministers).

Participation in debates by Young MPs was less than 10%



- 13% of MPs (excluding ministers) are aged between 25-40 years. Only 8% of participation in debates was by a ‘young MP’.
- Participation in debates by MPs according to age-group did not change much from the previous session. Around 7% of MPs who participated in any debate in the previous session was below 40.
- Those aged between 51 and 60 years accounted for 2 of 5 debates in the house (36% of seats).

Notes:

1. The entire analysis is based on detailed data obtained from the Lok Sabha websites.
2. Data on debates was compiled from the daily Bulletin I supplemented with the actual text of debates as published by the Lok Sabha secretariats.
3. In our analysis, we did not include proposals and responses by Ministers to various issues.
4. Participation by MPs on the last day of the session (May 7) has not been included.

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