

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

The Departmentally-related Standing Committee (DRSC) system in Indian Parliament came into force in August, 1989 with the setting up of three Subject Committees on Agriculture, Science and Technology and Environment and Forests. The new Committee system was inaugurated on 31st March, 1993 and the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare was constituted w.e.f. 8th April, 1993. After watching the working of DRSC system for over a decade, the system was restructured in July, 2004 and the number of DRSCs increased from 17 to 24. The Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare was also restructured and Standing Committee on Labour was constituted with the Ministries/Departments of Labour and Employment and Textiles under its jurisdiction. The 24 DRSCs related to the Ministries/Departments are Agriculture, Information Technology, Defence, Energy, External Affairs, Finance, Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Labour, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Railways, Urban Development, Water Resources, Chemicals & Fertilizers, Rural Development, Coal & Steel, Social Justice and Empowerment, Commerce, Home Affairs, Human Resource Development, Industry, Science and Technology, Environment and Forests and Transport and Tourism and Culture, Health & Family Welfare, Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. Members are nominated to the Standing Committees by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The setting up of DRSCs has been the result of years of study of similar experiments in foreign Parliaments of USA, UK, Australia, etc. and extensive deliberations at various Parliamentary fora.

Functions

The functions of DRSCs are as follows:-

- (a) To consider the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries/Departments and make a report on the same to the Houses. The report shall not suggest anything of the nature of cut motions;
- (b) To examine such bills pertaining to the concerned Ministries/Departments as are referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or the Speaker, as the case may be, and make report thereon;
- (c) To consider Annual Report of Ministries/ Departments and make report thereon; and
- (d) To consider national basic long term policy documents presented to the House, if referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha or Speaker, as the case may be, and make reports thereon. The Standing Committee on Labour is one of the 24 DRSCs, which has been constituted to examine matters pertaining to the Ministry of Labour & Employment; Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the institutions/ organisations falling under its purview.

Reports presented by the Committee

So far the Committee on Labour has presented 224 reports to the Parliament. The Lok Sabha-wise break up is as under:-

LOK SABHA	TENURE	REPORTS PRESENTED				
		DFG	SUBJECT	BILLS@	ATR	TOTAL
TENTH LOK SABHA	1993-1996	5	2	10	6	23
ELEVENTH LOK SABHA	1996-1998	4	1	2	2	9
TWELFTH LOK SABHA	1998-1999	4	-	2	5	11
THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA	1999-2004	12	2	10	14	38
FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA	2004-2009	10	7	11	12	40
FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA	2009-2014	10	7	8	21	46#
SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA	2014-2019	13	16	02	26	57
TOTAL		58	35	45	86*	224

* No ATR was presented on 1st Report of 10th Lok Sabha on Demands for Grants (1993-94) of Ministry of Welfare.

*ATR on 28th Report of 13th Lok Sabha on 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups' was presented by Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on 22.3.2005 (14th Lok Sabha).

*ATR on 33rd Report of 13th Lok Sabha on 'The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) was presented by Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on 22.12.2004 (14th Lok Sabha).

* ATR on 37th Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Welfare of Legal heirs of deceased workers of Rourkela Steel Plant – A Case study will be presented in next Lok Sabha i.e 16th Lok Sabha.

*** ATR on 44th, 45th, 52nd and 57th Reports (16th Lok Sabha) on the following subjects will be presented in next Lok Sabha i.e 17th Lok Sabha:**

i. 44th Report on 'Safety, Security and Welfare of TV/Broadcasting/Digital Entertainment/ Advertisement Industry Workers'.

ii. 45th Report on 'Scheduled/Non-Scheduled/ Test Flying Air Operators/ Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) companies/Air Ports Operators - Safety, Social Security Measures and norms for their Workers/ Employees especially in the context of those who are associated with flying the Aircraft in Civil Aviation Sector'.

iii. 52nd Report on 'Compliance with the prescribed provisions of deduction and deposit of PF, ESI and TDS (of Income Tax, etc.) by the Employers pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.'

iv. 57th Report on 'Guidelines, Monitoring, Rating and Regulatory System, Status of Investment in Bonds and such instruments - [example of Infrastructure Leasing And Financial Services (IL&FS)] by PF Funds, Pension Funds'.

@ ATRs on Bills are not prepared by the Committees as subsequent to presentation of Report on Bills to Houses, further action is taken by the Government and reported directly to the Houses i.e. further journey of the Bill in the House concerned, commences.

44th, 45th and 46th Reports (15th Lok Sabha) presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 15.3.2014.

Sittings of the Committee held during 16th Lok Sabha

During the 16th Lok Sabha, the Standing Committee on Labour held 123 sittings upto 21.02.2019. The Committee-wise break-up is as under:-

Committee (Year-wise)	Date of first sitting	Date of last sitting	No. of sittings	Time	
				Hours	Min.
2014-2015@	12.09.2014	26.08.2015	30	40	40
2015-2016@	09.09.2015	29.08.2016	23	32	15
2016-2017@	26.09.2016	31.08.2017	27	49	16
2017-2018@	06.10.2017	30.08.2017	28	42	15
2018-2019@	27.09.2018	21.02.2019	15	55	35
TOTAL			123	218	121

@ constituted on 1st September to 31th August

Total No. of sittings : 123

Duration of sittings : 220hrs. 01 min.