



Press Note

An average of only 4 questions per year, per constituency were raised in the outgoing Maharashtra State Assembly. 5,921 questions (Calling Attention and Starred questions) tabled in 12 sessions; MLA Amin Patel from Mumbadevi constituency has highest number of questions in his name!

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Mumbai, 27 (Correspondent): The 14th Assembly of Maharashtra will be dissolved in November this year. A total of 12 sessions were held during its five-year tenure between 2019 and 2024. As compared to the last assembly, there has been an increase in the questions raised on health issues as a result of Covid pandemic. But questions related to children's issued have reduced by more than half. Total 5,921 Calling Attention Motion and Starred questions raised in the House were examined out of which, Congress MLA Amin Patel has asked the highest (656) number of questions.

'Samprak', a Mumbai-based organisation that works in the field of Policy Study and Advocacy, examined the proceedings of the last five years of the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha. A report on the same was released on Friday, 27th September (entire report available on www.samparkmumbai.org). During these 5 years (2019-24), three sessions were cancelled due to the Covid pandemic, and in the 2024 Budget session, the Question Hour was done away with. Due to this, MLAs got less opportunity to raise the questions in this assembly as compared to the previous one.

A total of 119 i.e. 2.01% of the total questions were asked regarding women issues. In the previous 13th Legislative Assembly the percentage was 0.75%. So though the increase in women's questions is more than double, it amounts to only two percent. This is also an indication of how much importance, the highest legislative body of the state, gives to women, who constitute half of the total population.

Sampark has been studying the issues of children raised in the Legislative Assembly, since 2015. The percentage of children's questions has remained at two to three percent throughout. In this 14th Legislative Assembly too, the total number of children's questions raised are 129, i.e. 2.18%. This in fact, is a reduction compared to the last assembly, when the percentage was 3.43%.

A total 256 questions, around 4.25% were on School Education. A total of 451, i.e. about 7.5% were on Health. A number of questions from all districts of the state were about the health facilities there.

Similar to the last assembly, this time too, fewer questions were raised from the 9 districts with low HDI (Human Development Index). The House remained dominated by the districts with high and very high HDI. The highest number of questions (2,110) were from Mumbai suburban district.

MLA Ashish Shelar from Bandra West constituency raised the highest questions regarding children and health while MLA Amin Patel from Mubadevi constituency has the highest questions on education and women. MLA Vinod Nikole from Dahanu constituency raised the highest number of questions on the tribal issues.

Out of a total 27 women MLAs, Manisha Chaudhary of Dahisar constituency raised the highest (459) questions. 14th Legislative Assembly saw 92 first time MLAs. Among them, MLA Pratibha Dhanorakar from Varora asked the highest number of questions (316). MLA Kunal Patil from Dhule Rural constituency marked the highest questions in a category of the districts with low HDI.

Law making is the primary responsibility of the MLAs. However, in this 14th Assembly, not a single private member bill was discussed.

During this entire five-year period, the legislative committees did not function all because they were not in existence. The committees appointed by MVA could not function during Covid. After the change of power, these committees were cancelled, but no new ones were appointed.

Meanwhile, winds of assembly elections have started blowing in the state. This report has been published by Sampark with the intention that the people of Maharashtra should be aware of the performance of their elected representatives in the House before the new Vidhan Sabha is elected.

Party wise Question Count

- BJP 2878
- Congress 1670
- Shiv Sena 1617
- NCP undivided 1337
- BVA 137
- RSP 23
- SP 360
- MNS 84
- AIMIM 68
- Jansuraj Shakti party 23
- Prahar Janshakti Party 27
- Swabhimaani Paksh 49

- Communists Party Of India (Marxist) 237
- NCP (Sharad Pawar) from Jul 2023 onwards: 126
- Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thakaray) from June 2022 onwards 137

(Please note that party wise questions are more than 5,921 because some questions get repeated. 5,921 are the unique questions raised in the assembly)

Instruments examined

- Total Question 5, 921
- Starred Question 3, 791
- Calling Attention Motion 2, 130

Classification of Questions

- Tribal (Adivasi) 771
- Health 451
- Education 256
- Children 129
- Women 119

Highest Questions asked by MLA

- Amin Amir Ali Patel 656
- Ashish Babaji Shelar 630
- Aslam Sheikh 532
- Manisha Chaudhary 459 (Highest amongst women MLAs)
- Kunal Patil 357(Highest amongst MLAs from low HDI districts)
- Pratibha Dhanorkar 316 (Highest amongst first time MLAs)
- Vinod Nikole 237(Highest number of questions (21) on tribals)

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