

resigning their seats in the Rajya Sabha. I have accepted the resignation of Shri K.C. Ramamurthy with effect from 16th October, 2019 of Dr. Tazeen Fatma with effect from 3rd November, 2019 and of Shri Ram Kumar Kashyap with effect from 4th November, 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 18th of November, 2019, has allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business, as follows:-

Business	Time Allotted
1. Special Discussion on "The role of Rajya Sabha in Indian Polity and the way forward".	Four Hours
2. Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 (No. 15 of 2019) promulgated by the President on the 20th of September, 2019, admitted in the names of Shri K. K. Ragesh and Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.	Three Hours (<i>To be discussed together</i>)
3. Consideration and passing of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 after its introduction - to <i>replace an Ordinance</i> .	
4. Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Ordinance, 2019 (No. 14 of 2019) promulgated by the President on the 18th of September, 2019, admitted in the names of Shri K. K. Ragesh and Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.	Four Hours (<i>To be discussed together</i>)
5. Consideration and passing of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Bill, 2019, after its introduction - to <i>replace an Ordinance</i> .	

	Business	Time Allotted
6.	Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bill relating to the First Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants (including Railways) for the year 2019-20, after it is passed by Lok Sabha.	Three Hours

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I got. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SPECIAL DISCUSSION ON "THE ROLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN INDIAN POLITY AND THE WAY FORWARD"

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, this being the 250th Session of the Rajya Sabha, we have a special discussion today on "The role of Rajya Sabha in Indian Polity and the way forward".

Hon. Members, the opportunities of being a part of unique and landmark events in one's lifetime come rarely. I have heard many expression a sense of deprivation for not being part of the freedom struggle and witnessing the subsequent dawn on the 15th of August, 1947. I was one among them, to be honest.

Today, all of us have the honour of being associated with and part of the historic 250th session of this august House. I compliment all of you for this rare and unique opportunity worth cherishing for a long time.

Rajya Sabha came into being after extensive deliberations by the Constituent Assembly over the need for a second chamber of Parliament. Some opposed it and others supported it and in the process of that debate, the role and mandate of this august House was well defined.

This House held its first sitting on May 13, 1952. During the last 67 years, Rajya Sabha has played out its role in the socio-economic transformation of the country. This was also the period when democracy in our country grew from strength to strength consolidating itself with every election, defying the prophets of doom. We have adopted and executed the parliamentary democracy as the cardinal principle of governance based on rule of law and equality.

This momentous occasion is an opportune time for collective reflection on the journey so far and sincere introspection over the missed opportunities. This is warranted