

## **Report on functioning of Tripura Legislative Assembly (2008-2012)**

- As per the information received under the RTI Act 2005, the total number of actual sittings in Tripura Legislative assembly was 78 from 2008-2012
- The average number of sittings per year in the Tripura Assembly is 16. This data has been compared to the average no of sittings per year of the Lok Sabha and the State assemblies which had elections in the last one year.
- Tripura Legislative Assembly has the minimum average number of sittings/year (16) followed by Uttarakhand (19) and Punjab (19), Uttar Pradesh (22) and Himachal Pradesh (26). Gujarat (31) having the maximum no of sittings/per year among these State Assemblies.
- The average number of days of these State Assemblies (Tripura, Gujarat, Himachal, Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Uttar Pradesh) sat is way below the Lok Sabha sittings.
- Total number of bills passed in Tripura State Assembly was 31 from 2008-2012
- \*8 MLAs have the maximum attendance of 50 out of 51 sittings (The attendance data received is from August 2009 to September 2012). The minimum attendance is of Keshab Majumder of CPM from Kakraban constituency with an attendance of only 6.
- NEW demands that political parties include the parameters for improving performance of Legislatures in their Election Manifestoes.
- NEW demands suo moto declaration of performance information of MLAs on the website by Legislative Assembly Secretariat.
- NEW also demands that parties give tickets to candidates suitable for legislature work.

**Agartala:** Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) had filed RTIs to the Assembly Secretariat of Tripura asking for the information pertaining to the performance of the MLAs and the Legislative Assembly. The following information was received:

S. No.	Information Requested	Whether Information Received Yes/No
1	Attendance of the MLAs in the Assembly	Yes (5 <sup>th</sup> session onwards of 47 out of 60 MLAs)
2	Total number of days the Assembly sat	Yes
3	Total number of days the Assembly was planned to sit	Yes
4	Number of bills tabled	Yes

<sup>1</sup> \*8 MLAs with maximum attendance: Shri Daniel Jamatia , Shri Jashabir Tripura , Shri Keshab Debbarma Shri Manindra chandra Das, Shri Manoranjan Acherjee , Smt.Rita kar (Majumdar ) , Sri Arun Kumar Chakma , Sri Sachindra Debbarma

S. No.	Information Requested	Whether Information Received Yes/No
5	Number of bills passed	Yes
6	Average bills discussion time	No
7	Number of Questions asked by MLAs	No
8	Number of times the assembly was adjourned	Yes

### **Number of bills tabled and passed:**

The table below shows the number of bills tabled and passed in Tripura State Assembly.

Information Year	Period	No of Bills Passed
2008	1st Session	2
	2nd Session	1
	3th Session	3
2009	4th Session	4
	5rd Session	4
	6th Session	0
2010	7th Session	4
	8th Session	2
	9th Session	2
2011	10 <sup>th</sup> Session	4
	11 <sup>th</sup> Session	0
2012	12 <sup>th</sup> Session	4
	13 <sup>th</sup> Session	1
Total		31

**Table: Total number of bills passed – Year wise**

### **Actual number of sittings and their Average Attendance per session:**

The table below gives the total number of actual sittings in the Tripura Legislative assembly from the year 2008-2012 (13 sessions).

Information Year	Period	Actual Sitting	Average Attendance (Session Wise from 5 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> session)
2008	1st Session	5	Information not Received
	2nd Session	7	Information not Received
	3th Session	4	Information not Received
2009	4th Session	11	Information not Received
	5rd Session	5	43
	6th Session	3	42
2010	7th Session	6	42
	8th Session	7	42
	9th Session	4	42
2011	10 <sup>th</sup> Session	11	42
	11 <sup>th</sup> Session	2	39
2012	12 <sup>th</sup> Session	11	37
	13 <sup>th</sup> Session	2	41
Total		78	41

**Table: Average attendance of MLAs (Session Wise) Average Attendance has been calculated by dividing the Total Attendance with the Total no of days the assembly sat in a session**

### **Analysis based on performance of Tripura State Assembly (compared with the average no of sittings per year of the Lok Sabha and the State assemblies which had elections in the last one year.):**

The Legislative Assemblies have been meeting for a very short time despite legislation being the main task of the MLAs. Tripura Legislative Assembly has the minimum average number of sittings/year (16) followed by Uttarakhand (19) and Punjab (19), Uttar Pradesh (22) and Himachal Pradesh (26).

This compares very poorly with the number of sittings of MPs in Lok Sabha. The current Lok Sabha in the last 3.5 years sat for 243 days which averages to about 70 days in a year. All state assemblies have sat way below the average number of days Lok Sabha has sat.

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State Assembly	No. of Years considered	Number of Sessions held by the Assembly	Total number of days of sittings	Average number of days of sittings /year	No. of times assembly adjourned
Tripura(till 2012)	5 years	13	78	16	13
Gujarat(till 2012)	5 years	9	156	31	Information Not Received
Himachal Pradesh (till 2012)	5 years	11	128	26	Information Not Received
Uttar Pradesh (till Feb '11)	4 years	10	89	22	26
Punjab (till Mar'11)	5 years	10	76	19	14
Manipur (till Aug'11)	4.5 years	11	110	24	11
Uttarakhand (till Sept'10)	3.5 years	11	68	19	108
Goa (till Feb'11)	3.5 years	12	95	26	85
15th Lok Sabha (till May '12)	3.5 years	10	243	70	Information Not Received

Table: Average attendance of MLAs- Session wise

### Top 20 MLAs with highest attendance:

Given below are the names of the top MLAs of Tripura Legislative Assembly with maximum attendance.

S.No.	Name	Party	Constituency	2009		2010			2011		2012		Total
				5 <sup>th</sup> Session	6 <sup>th</sup> session	7th Session	8th Session	9th Session	10 <sup>th</sup> Session	11 <sup>th</sup> Session	12 <sup>th</sup> Session	13 <sup>th</sup> Session	
1	Shri Daniel Jamatia	CPM	Ampinagar	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50
2	Shri Jashabir Tripura	CPM	Jolaibari	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50
3	Shri Keshab Debbarma	CPM	Kakraban	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50

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				5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7th	8th	9th	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	
				Session	session	Session	Session	Session	Session	Session	Session	Session	
4	Shri Manindra chandra Das	CPM	Kalyanpur	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50
5	Shri Manoranjan Acherjee	CPM	Birganj	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50
6	Smt.Rita kar (Majumdar )	CPM	Sabroom	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50
7	Sri Arun Kumar Chakma	CPM	Pencharthal	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50
8	Sri Sachindra Debbarma	CPM	Asharambari	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	10	2	50
9	Shri Naresh Jamatia	CPM	Bagma	5	3	6	6	4	11	2	10	2	49
10	Shri Pabitra Kar	CPM	Khayerpur	5	3	6	6	4	11	2	10	2	49
11	Shri Parnab Debbarma	CPM	Simna	5	3	6	7	3	11	2	10	2	49
12	Shri samir Deb sarkar	CPM	Khowai	5	3	6	6	4	11	1	10	2	49
13	Sri Ashis Kumar Saha	INC	Bardowali	5	3	6	6	4	11	2	10	2	49
14	Sri Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawal	INPT	Kulai	5	1	6	7	4	11	2	11	2	49
15	Sri sankar Prasad Datta	CPM	Barjala	5	3	5	6	4	11	2	11	2	49
16	Shri Rajendra Reang	CPM	Kanchanpur	5	3	6	5	4	11	2	10	2	48
17	Sri Basudeb	CPM	Belonia	5	2	5	7	4	11	2	10	2	48

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S.No.	Name	Party	Constituency	2009		2010			2011		2012		Total
				5 <sup>th</sup> Session	6 <sup>th</sup> session	7th Session	8th Session	9th Session	10 <sup>th</sup> Session	11 <sup>th</sup> Session	12 <sup>th</sup> Session	13 <sup>th</sup> Session	
	Majumder												
18	Sri Prasanta Debbarama	CPM	Salema	5	3	6	7	3	10	2	10	2	48
19	Shri Dilip Sarkar	INC	Badharghat	5	3	6	7	4	11	2	9	0	47
20	Shri Lalit Mohan Tripura	CPM	Raima Valley	5	3	6	5	4	10	2	10	2	47

Table: MLAs with maximum attendance

### **Demands of National Election Watch (NEW):**

NEW demands that all political parties should disclose the criteria they adopt for selection of candidates. The criterion must contain the ability and willingness of these candidates to do legislative work. Candidates with criminal background must not be given tickets by the political parties.

Whereas most legislatures are now passing recommendations for increase in MLAs salaries and perks, there is **virtually no discussion on the role of MLAs**. The parties must include various parameters for improving performance of Legislatures in their Election Manifestoes. They must also ensure that once they come to power they will make it easy for people to access information pertaining to performance of MLAs and State Legislative Assemblies through their official websites.