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Backed it in democratic spirit, says BJP MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP's lone member in the Kerala Assembly, O. Rajagopal, sprang a surprise on Thursday when he chose not to oppose the resolution demanding that the Modiled Union government repeal the contentious farm laws.

After the session, Mr. Rajagopal told reporters that he supported the resolution and that it was indeed passed unanimously. On his part, he had opted to go along with the general consensus, he said.

Mr. Rajagopal abstained from the voting and Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan declared that the resolution was passed unanimously.

Asked whether he supported the resolution, Mr. Rajagopal replied in the affirmative. He said he had reservations regarding certain



O. Rajagopal

points in the resolution, which he pointed out in his speech. Nonetheless, he was in agreement with the substance of the resolution, he said.

"I gave my opinion. But that is not consensus. I accept that. Isn't that the democratic spirit?" he said in reply to questions.

He said he did not believe that his stand created a problem for the BJP. "I interpret it as democratic spirit," the BJP senior leader said.