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Monsoon Session: Rajya Sabha plans staggered seating, virtual participation

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is planning staggered seating arrangements for MPs in conformity with the physical distancing norm during the upcoming monsoon session.

The broad position is to enable seating of members in the chamber and the galleries of the House in conformity with physical distancing and to enable virtual participation of other members from either the Central Hall or Balayogi Audi-

torium in the Parliament House premises, sources said. The chamber and the galleries of RS can accommodate 127 members while adhering to the physical distancing norm. All the galleries, except the media gallery, would be utilized for seating the members.

The Centre is planning to hold the monsoon session by August-end or early September. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday held discussions on various options

during the monsoon session.

Limited virtual participation is being considered in view of the capacity constraints of NIC at present.

"Naidu suggested enabling the participation of members from within the House to the extent possible. For enabling the viewing of participation from outside the House through virtual participation, it was felt that screens need to be arranged both within the chamber and outside," a source said.