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## Azad presides over meeting of key parliamentary group

Opposition to demand restoration of Question Hour

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Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, presided over a virtual meeting of the parliamentary strategy group of the Congress on Thursday, ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament, in which it was decided that the Opposition would demand restoration of Question Hour.

The Monsoon session, delayed because of COVID-19, will get under way on September 14 and will end on October 1.

The timing of the meeting is significant as it comes just



Ghulam Nabi Azad

10 days after an explosive meeting of the Congress Working Committee in which Mr. Azad, one of the 23 signatories, or G23 (Group of 23), who had signed a letter addressed to

party chief Sonia Gandhi questioning the party's functioning, had received a lot of flak from colleagues.

It was a closed door meeting. Sources said Mr. Azad and Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, will write to Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Speaker to restore Question Hour.

Thursday's meeting, that included another member of G23, Anand Sharma, was the first after Ms. Gandhi rejigged the parliamentary group last week, a move that was largely seen as a snub to dissenters.

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