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BJP reaches 92 mark in Rajya Sabha T. 1. 11/20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

With Monday's unopposed election of its eight members from Uttar Pradesh and one from Uttarakhand to the Rajya Sabha, the strength of the BJP, which is already the largest party in the Upper House, now stands at 92, though it is still way short of the majority mark of 123.

The Samajwadi Party's Ramgopal Yadav and the Bahujan Samaj Party's Ramji Gautam won from Uttar Pradesh. The Congress lost one seat from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand with the retirement of senior leaders P.L. Punia and Raj Babbar. The elected BJP members include Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The Opposition has steadily losing ground in the Rajya Sabha. In its first defeat, in July 2019, the Opposition lost the vote on the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights of Marriage) Bill, 2019, this despite key NDA allies, the Janata Dal (U) and the AIADMK, opposing the Bill. The Jammu and Kashmir Re-organisation Bill on August 5 last year was cleared without any trouble. The Congress is now down to 38, its lowest-ever tally.