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Oppn cries foul as govt tables UAPA, Jallianwala trust, DNA tech bills in LS

Times News Network

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New Delhi: The government on Monday introduced five bills in Lok Sabha - a bill seeking removal of the Congress president as a permanent trustee of the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Trust, the NIA Amendment Bill, the DNA Technology Regulation Bill, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill and the Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants Amendment Bill amid opposition from Congress and other parties.

The opposition accused the government of violating fundamental rights of individuals by bringing amendments in the UAPA Bill, proposing to brand individuals as terrorists, and the DNA Technology Bill, which gives the state power to take DNA samples of under-trials.

Congress opposed re-



Opposing the DNA Technology Regulation Bill, Congress said it violated fundamental rights as DNA of under-trials could be collected without court orders

moval of its party president from the Jallianwala Bagh Trust Party MPShashi Tharoor said, "It is a national memorial, do not betray our history and heritage."

The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amend-ment) Bill seeks to delete the mention of 'president of the Indian National Congress' as a trustee. It empowers the Centre to terminate any nominated member of the trust without assigning any reason. Established in 1951, the trust is headed by the Prime Minister and has as members the Congress president, culture minister, leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, Punjab governor and Punjab CM.

Opposing the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, N K Premachandran of RSP said fundamental rights of an individual could not be foregone in the name of tackling terror. Tharoor called it a hastily brought amendment and reminded BJP that former PM A B Vajpayee was opposed to such provisions.

Countering them, junior home minister G Kishan Reddy, who introduced the bill. said when the UN could name LeTchief Hafiz Saeed as a terrorist, why couldn't India do the same. Amendment to

allow the NIA to designate an individual suspected to have terror links as a terrorist. As of now, only organisations are designated as 'terrorist organisations'.

Taking a dig at the opposition, home minister Amit Shah asked Tharoor if he would like to withdraw objections as these would not look good in the records.

Opposing the DNA Technology Regulation Bill, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury of Congress said it violated fundamental rights as DNA of under-trials could be collected without court orders. There was no provision of consent on the storage of DNA data, he added. Minister for science and technology Harsh Vardhan, however, rejected the opposition's charges and said the concerns raised by members had "no serious substance".