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# Empty Oppn benches mar Assembly proceedings

**Cow bill was tabled  
without discussing it  
at BAC: Cong**

BENGALURU, DHNS

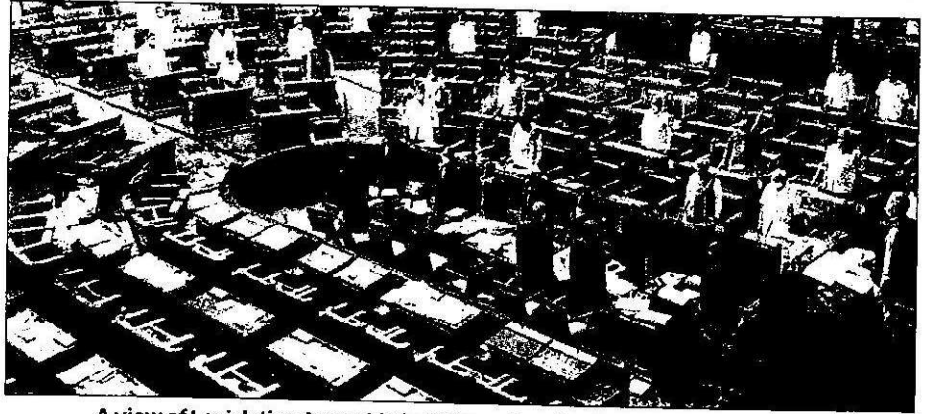
The Siddaramaiah-led Congress boycotted the Legislative Assembly proceedings on Thursday and the Opposition benches were empty since even the JD(S) did not show up.

The Congress boycotted the Assembly in protest against the manner in which the BJP government tabled the anti-cow slaughter Bill on Wednesday.

On Thursday Siddaramaiah chaired the Congress Legislature Party meeting, after which he led his MLAs towards Freedom Park by walk in support of farmers protesting there.

The Congress claimed that the Bill was tabled even as nothing about it was discussed in Tuesday's Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting.

"I want to clarify that it was decided to take up ordinances already promulgated and other important Bills. So, it's wrong to say that it was not



A view of Legislative Assembly in Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru on Thursday.

discussed. Also, since the government said it was an important Bill, the same was included in the supplementary agenda," Kageri said.

But Madhuswamy was more candid. "In the BAC, I said there will be 2-3 Bills that will be tabled. It's true that we didn't specify that the anti-cow slaughter Bill was one of them," he said.

"We pushed for it because we were convinced that the Legislative Council might be adjourned abruptly on Thursday and we had to get this Bill passed there also," he added. The four-day session concluded with Kageri adjourning the House sine die.

## 'Will undo amendments if Cong gets power'

Addressing agitating farmers at Freedom Park, Siddaramaiah said the Congress would "undo" the controversial amendments to laws related to the APMCs, land reforms and labour if the party came to power.

"If we win the next election, we will undo the amendments. This is my commitment," Siddaramaiah said, adding

that the Congress "fully supported" the farmers' protest. He also took a dig at his arch-rival HD Kumaraswamy of the JD(S).

"I don't know with what mouth Kumaraswamy defends the land reforms amendments. His father (HD Deve Gowda) and brother (HD Revanna) claim to be pro-farmer," he said.