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Kharge to be Leader of Opposition in RS

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enior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge will be next Leader of Opposition in the Upper House, with the party capping the suspense on who will succeed Ghulam Nabi Azad who is retiring on February 15.

Kharge (78), who was Leader of Congress in the previous Lok Sabha, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June last year after the party leadership decided to accommodate him in the Upper House, as he had lost the 2019 polls.

He will be the second leader from Karnataka to be the Leader of Op-



Mallikarjun Kharge

position in the Rajya Sabha after M S Gurupadaswamy, one of the founders of Janata Party and the second LOP between March 1971 and April 1972. Overall, he will be the 17th LOP in the Rajya

Sabha.

Gurupadaswamywas also Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha between December 1989 and November 1990 and then again between June 1991-July 1991. The post of Leader of Opposition was established in the Rajya Sabha in

1969 and Shyam Nandan Mishra (Congress-O) was the first LOP between December 1969 to March 1971.

The news about Congress nominating Kharge came on the last day of Budget Session's first leg in the Rajya Sabha.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi wrote to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday about the party's choice of Kharge as the successor of Azad, who has served as the LOP for the longest period of six years and nine months followed by Sikander Bakht (5 years 10 months), Manmohan Singh (5 years 9 months) and Arun Jaitley (5 years 2 months).