

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

33

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: parliament session

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 15/9/2022

It's official: Question Hour gone

Opposition slams move; Parliamentary Affairs Minister cites shorter hours of sittings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday adopted a motion to do away with Question Hour and private members' business during the current monsoon session of Parliament owing to the special circumstances and curtailed hours of the House, but not without facing a push back from the Opposition benches who termed it the Executive prevailing over the Legislature and violating norms of separation of powers.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved the motion in the Lok Sabha citing the extraordinary circumstances amid which the House was being convened, and the allotted four-hour sittings per day.

The Opposition refused to be convinced, however, with Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, terming Question Hour as the "golden hour" of the House.

"We get a chance to raise issues of common people. Question Hour is simply a golden hour of the House," he said, adding that by doing away with it, the government is trying to suppress this democratic practice which has been followed since Independence.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen MP Asaduddin Owaisi said Question Hour and private members' business were the cornerstone of democracy and were essential for the



Remembering veterans: Lawmakers paying tribute to Pranab Mukherjee and others who passed away this year. •PTI

democracy. "I urge the Speaker not to allow the executive to encroach on the territory of the legislature. It is a shameful day," Mr. Owaisi said. He also requested for a division on the motion, which was not accepted by Speaker Om Birla. Congress MP Manish Tewari said Question Hour was the only time when the Opposition could hold the government accountable.

'Integral part'

Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee said Question Hour is an integral part of the basic structure of parliamentary procedure and "we cannot destroy that part".

"We also have our views to express," he said adding, "Kindly do not take away this advantage. It will take the entire glamour, 50% glamour of running

ed out that before arriving at this decision, deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had spoken to almost all leaders of various parties.

"I would like to ask various leaders who questioned the suspension of Question Hour that all State Assemblies including Punjab, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have run sessions for a day or two and passed several bills, whereas the government of India decided to run for 18 days and hold discussion on bills," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he had discussed the matter with several leaders and noted that this session is being held in an extraordinary situation. He added that Mr. Choudhary had agreed with the propo-

People's right to question curtailed: Azad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

By suspending the Question Hour, the government has deprived the people of India of an opportunity to question the government, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, said on Monday.

Mr. Azad said that in a democracy the government is answerable to people. "People of the country have no access or means to ask the question to the minister inside Parliament; their representatives are MPs. The people of India have been deprived of asking the question," Mr. Azad said.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O' Brien moved the amendment against the government decision. "If this government really wanted to make a meaningful suggestion they would not have struck at the very heart of parliamentary democracy," Mr. O' Brien said.

Chairman Rajya Sabha Venkaiah Naidu said Parliament was meeting in extraordinary times. Question Hour would have meant that government of India officials had to be present and that would