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## Jairam Ramesh refutes govt. claim on Parliament session

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Congress chief whip in the Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh refuted the government's claim that informal discussions had been held with Opposition leaders before deciding against holding the winter session of Parliament.

In a tweet, Mr. Ramesh said no such consultation had happened. "The Leader of the Opposition in the Ra-

jya Sabha was NOT consulted. Mr. Pralhad Joshi is as usual departing from the truth," Mr. Ramesh tweeted.

Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad is the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Ramesh was reacting to the letter sent by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi to Congress's Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary in reply to the latter's demand for a special session of Parliament

to discuss the three farm laws and the ongoing farmers' protest against it.

In his response, Mr. Joshi said "I have informally contacted floor leaders of various political parties and they have expressed concerns about the ongoing pandemic and opined of doing away with winter session."

This was the first comment from the government on skipping the session.