

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಕ್ಷುಣ್ಣುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Parliament

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 18/3/2020

Rahul bats for Tamil Nadu MPs in Lok Sabha

'Speaker's decision not to allow members from the State to ask supplementaries is unacceptable'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's decision not to allow members from Tamil Nadu to ask supplementaries was "unacceptable" and an "insult to the people of the State".

"The people of Tamil Nadu have every single right to defend their language, to believe in their language and to speak in their language, and what is being done is absolutely unacceptable," he told reporters as he walked out in protest.

Ruckus over language

Earlier, the House witnessed ruckus and members of the DMK, the Congress and the NCP staged a walkout on being denied an opportunity to



Standing by ally: Rahul Gandhi addressing the media in the Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

ask supplementary questions during the Question Hour.

It started with Arvind Kumar Sharma of the BJP saying Hindi should be made the official language of India. Opposition members were on their feet when Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai was replying to

a question related to official language.

Mr. Gandhi intervened, saying it was an issue at the heart of the people of Tamil Nadu, and supplementaries should be allowed. As the Speaker took up the next question, DMK leader T.R. Baalu vociferously protested that they should be allowed

to ask supplementary questions.

When the Speaker continued with the next question, members of various Opposition parties, including the DMK, the Congress and the NCP, walked out. Trinamool Congress members, however, did not join the walkout.

Addressing the media outside, Mr. Gandhi once again referred to Monday's Question Hour when he claimed that he was not allowed a second supplementary to his starred question on 50 wilful defaulters.

"I am a Member of Parliament, I have certain rights and he can't take away my rights. But today, our Tamil [Nadu] MPs wanted to ask a supplementary about the Tamil language... This is an absolute insult to the people of Tamil Nadu," he said.

In a tweet, Mr. Gandhi called it a departure from the established parliamentary practice.

"The people of Tamil Nadu were disrespected in Parliament today when the Speaker refused to allow a supplementary question in the #Tamil language. I strongly protest this injustice done to the Tamil people & the disregard for established practises & traditions of Parliament," he said.

During Zero Hour, the leader of the single largest Opposition party, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, spoke about the hike in the excise duty on petrol and diesel. He alleged that the government had cheated the common man.

Dayanidhi Maran of the DMK made a similar allegation, saying a "serious look" was taking place.