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MONSOON SESSION: 'Govt wants to stop NGOs from working in the Bill making Aadhaar must to get foreign funds tabled

SAGAR KULKARNI
NEW DELHI, DHNS
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The Centre on Sunday introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha seeking to make Aadhaar mandatory for all office-bearers of an NGO seeking foreign donations, amid Opposition allegations using the changes to the law to target detractors.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, introduced by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, seeks to streamline the provisions of the law by strengthening the compliance mechanism to enhance transparency and accountability in receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury opposed the bill saying that it sought to give unnecessary powers to the Centre to suppress the opposition.

Trinamool Congress member Saugata Ray said the bill was an attempt to stop social organisations working in tribal and rural areas from getting foreign donations.

Rai sought to allay apprehensions voiced by the Opposition, quoting the then Home Minister P Chidambaram, who had moved the FCRA Bill in 2010 citing non-compliance by more than half of the reg-

istered NGOs when it came to submitting details of foreign donations.

Rai said Chidambaram had told the House that of 40,000-odd NGOs registered under the FCRA, more than half did not submit details about foreign donations. The minister said rejected allegations of political discrimination, and said the bill would bring a transparent process for accountability.

The proposed amendments also seek to bar public servants from receiving foreign funding. It seeks to limit the use of foreign funds received under the FCRA for administrative purposes from the current limit of 50% to 20%.

The government had cancelled certificates of registration of more than 19,000 NGOs between 2011 and 2019 for failing to meet basic statutory compliances.

The bill seeks to empower the government to ask a violator to not use the funds by holding a "summary inquiry". After the amendments are passed, no organisation will be able to transfer foreign contributions to any association/person under Section 7 of the FCRA.

Everyone who is permitted to take foreign funds shall receive it only in a designated FCRA Account in SBI, says the proposed amendment.

Oppn's no-trust motion against Harivansh

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Thirteen Opposition parties on Sunday submitted a no-confidence motion against RS Deputy Chairman Harivansh protesting against the manner in which he allowed the passage of two contentious farm sector bills without permitting voting on its motions.

"The deputy chairperson did not even attempt to generate consensus in this regard (on extending timing) and did not allow RS members sitting in the Lok Sabha chamber to even participate. The deputy chairperson attempted to have the Bills passed in haste and without application of mind, circumvented all demands for proper voting by division..." the letter signed by at least 47 MPs said.

Govt mulling action against unruly MPs

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Government is mulling action against RS members who charged at Deputy Chairman Harivansh, broke microphones and disrupted proceedings by climbing on tables in the House. The government was weighing options of moving breach of privilege proceedings or suspending the members who indulged in unruly scenes in the RS during the discussion on farm sector bills.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh condemned the Opposition members behaviour contending that it had tarnished the dignity of the House.



Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh conduct upper house over agriculture-related bills, during the

Congress steps up against farm

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress party on Sunday went all out against the government's move to create more trade avenues for farmers beyond the APMC markets raising the issue strongly from streets to Parliament.

Congress leaders opposed the two farm sector bills tooth and nail in the Rajya Sabha, dubbing it a death warrant for farmers and accusing the BJP of misleading them.

The grand old party leaders also hit the streets by embarking on a tractor rally of farmers from Chandigarh to Delhi to protest against the farm sector bills passed in both Houses of Parliament. The Kisan Aakarohi tractor Rally was stopped at the Punjab-Haryana border, where the protesters faced water cannons. "We will continue to march ahead," Srinivas B V, President of the Indian Youth Congress said.

A number of farmers' organ-

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader



Democracy has been shamed by the manner in which the government passed death warrants against farmers in the form of two farm bills in Rajya Sabha.

isations, including the Bf Kisan Union, have taken the streets, blocking rail roads in parts of Punjab Haryana.

Congress likened the farmers' agitation against the bills the first war of Independence of 1857.

"We are not going to let this issue. We are going to take it out," Congress Rajya S member K C Venugopal said.

As BJP stepped up attacking the Congress, claiming it had promised similar