

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

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Rajya Sabha

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER:

Deccan Herald

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 21/9/20

Parliament passes farm bills amid high drama

Oppn creates ruckus as BJP pushes through legislation by voice vote

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Rajya Sabha passed two contentious farm sector bills amid high drama on Sunday, with Opposition MPs trooping into the Well of the House, throwing the rule book at the Chair and breaking microphones.

The members, who did not leave the House even after it was adjourned around 2 pm, sat on a dharna protesting against Deputy Chairman Harivansh for "not allowing" voting on their motion to send the bills — Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and Farmers' Economic



TMC MP Derek O'Brien attempts to tear the rule book in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday. PTI

and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill — to select committees. The Opposition also moved a no-confidence motion against Harivansh, objecting to the "manner" in which he allowed the passage of the bills by voice vote.

Congress chief Jairam Ramesh said, "The dictatorial attitude of the Chair in not allowing to get a series of the House led to bedlam and chaos. The anti-farmer bills were also in the air with outvote

ing. Why the tearing urgency? On whose orders?"

The two bills came to the Rajya Sabha after their passage in the Lok Sabha last week. The legislations have been dubbed draconian and against the interests of farmers.

The BJP accused the Opposition of "murdering democracy" and resorting to "gundagardi" when it realised it did not have the numbers. The Opposition retorted, saying the "dictatorial" attitude in

Cong steps up protests

The Congress went all out against the Modi government's move to create more trade avenues for farmers beyond the APMC markets. Its leaders hit the streets by embarking on a tractor rally of farmers from Chandigarh to Delhi. Details on Page 5

continuing with the session led to their protest.

Trinamool Congress floor leader Derek O'Brien rushed to the Chair waving the rule book. One of the MPs hurled the rule book at the Chair while microphones in front of the Chair were broken. "What is the use of a rule book when all rules are violated by the ruling party," O'Brien asked.

The House was adjourned for 15 minutes, but the chaos continued even after it resumed.