

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Amid fierce protests, Rajya Sabha passes two farm Bills

Govt. should send them to Select Committee for scrutiny, say Opposition parties

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Two of the three agriculture-related legislation piloted by the Narendra Modi government, aimed at liberalising the farm sector, were passed by the Rajya Sabha by voice vote on Sunday amid a din as the Opposition parties, enraged by the refusal of Deputy Chairman Harivansh to allow voting on resolutions they moved, broke microphones, stood up on tables and flung papers in the air.

The legislation - the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, were cleared by the Lok Sabha last week.

Death warrant: Congress The Rajya Sabha saw a peaceful debate till 1 p.m., when the proceedings were scheduled to end. The Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the Samajwadi Party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Aam Aadmi Party and the two Left parties vehemently opposed the Bills, asking the government to send them to a Parliament panel for further scrutiny.

The dictatorial attitude of the Chair in not wanting to get a sense of the House ... led to bedlam & chaos. The anti-farmer Bills were passed in the din without voting. Why the tearing urgency? On whose orders?

JAIRAM RAMESH, CONGRESS CHIEF WHIP IN RAJYA SABHA



I was in my seat when I asked for a vote, but the Deputy Chairman completely ignored my demand. The rules dictate that even if one member of the House asks for a resolution [against the Bills] to be put to vote, it should be. This was clearly undemocratic

K.K. RAGESH, CPI(M) MP



This is the height of indiscipline and intolerance. People have given mandate to PM Narendra Modi. This is an insult to people's mandate

PRALHAD JOSHI, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER



The bottom line is that the Opposition wanted a vote on the Bills and the BJP did not want to vote because it did not have numbers. This story does not end here. The BJP told you it is a historic day, but it is a sad day for Parliamentary democracy

TEJASWI NI MITAL MP



Congress MP Pratap Singh Bajwa said his party would not sign the "death warrant" of farmers.

Among the BJP allies and friendly parties, the JD(U) and the YSR Congress supported the Bills. The AIADMK spoke against the Bills, with MP S.R. Balasubramoniyam calling them a

way to "disinvest" in agriculture. Biju Janata Dal MP Amar Patnaik said the Bills had good intent but ignored the implementation problems. He asked the government to send them to a Select Committee.

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Parties move no-confidence motion

Twelve Opposition parties, including Congress, AAP, Trinamool Congress, DMK and the Left parties, gave notice for a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh, accusing him of violating Parliamentary procedures in trying to pass the farm sector Bills in haste, circumventing all demands for proper voting. > PAGE 9

Minimum support price will stay: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the system of minimum support price (MSP) and government procurement of crops would continue. "I said it earlier and I say it once again: System of MSP will remain. Government procurement will continue. We are here to serve our farmers," he tweeted. > PAGE 9