

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Rajya Parliament Session

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Ruckus in House; Chair ignores division demand since all members were not in their seats; Oppn says govt did not have the numbers

Shocker as RS rams two farm bills by voice vote

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TWO of the three contentious farm bills were passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote on Sunday amid pandemonium from the Opposition parties.

The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill will now go to the President for his assent before they are notified as laws.

The third bill, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, will be moved separately.

Dramatic scenes unfolded as Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh rushed through the clauses of the two bills with Opposition MPs standing in the well of the House sloganeering, tearing copies of the bills, damaging the microphone at the podium and some climbing on to tables.

Opposition MPs also sat in protest inside the House after it was adjourned for the day, alleg-

ing that the government violated many rules to get the bills passed because it did not have the numbers.

The Centre condemned the ruckus in Parliament. "The kind of attack launched on Deputy Chairman Harivansh, who is an erudite and reputed person, is highly condemnable," Union Minister Rajnath Singh said in a press conference. "There are attempts to emotionally misguide the farmers on the agriculture bills passed by Parliament," he added.

Terming it a 'watershed moment' in the history of Indian agriculture, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi said the bills will ensure a complete transformation of the farm sector.

Meanwhile, several BJP MPs demanded action against the unruly opposition lawmakers, following which Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu held a meeting with the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. Sources said the Centre is also mulling a resolution against the Opposition MPs.

The pandemonium started after the Deputy Chairman extended the duration of the House beyond 1 pm and the Opposition alleged there was no consensus for this. Following this, MPs from the TMC, Congress, DMK, AAP and others rushed to the well of the House.

TMC parliamentary party leader in Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien flashed the rule book at the chair. While some reports said he tore it, O'Brien later denied having done so. Another member tried to pull the microphones from the podium, while marshals thwarted it.

Many other MPs, including



Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien displays the rule book in front of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh on Sunday | PTI

QUESTION MARK OVER VOICE VOTE

The Congress, CPM and DMK moved resolutions to send the bills to a select committee and demanded division when their resolutions were taken up. However, the Deputy Chairman said division can only be taken up if the members go back to their seats. Voice vote was taken as Opposition members continued to remain in the well of the House

A WATERSHED MOMENT, SAYS MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the passage of the farm bills, calling it a 'watershed moment' in the history of Indian agriculture. He said the bills have the potential to revolutionise the farm sector. The PM asserted the bills will help double the income of farmers

DMK's Tiruchi Siva, were seen tearing copies of the bill, while Congress MP Rajiv Satav and AAP MP Sanjay Singh climbed a table in front of the chair and shouted slogans.

The noisy scenes led to adjournment of the House for 15 minutes. As the House reassem-

bled, the Opposition resumed their protest. But the Deputy Chairman continued with the bills and they were passed by voice vote in 20 minutes. The main point raised by Opposition MPs was the lack of provision for ensuring minimum support price to farmers.

NO-TRUST MOTION AGAINST DY CHAIR
Complaining they were not allowed to seek voting on two farm bills, 12 Opposition parties moved a no-trust motion against Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh