

# Eight Oppn MPs suspended over unruly behaviour

**Derek O'Brien, others begin indefinite sit-in on House premises**

22/9/20

SHEMIN JOY  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

**E**ight Opposition MPs, including Trinamool Congress floor leader Derek O'Brien and Karnataka MP Syed Nasir Hussain, were on Monday suspended for the remainder of the monsoon session of Parliament for "unruly behaviour" during the passage of two farm sector bills, intensifying the war between the Modi government and its opponents.

The suspended MPs — O'Brien, his AAP counterpart Sanjay Singh, CPM's Elamaram Kareem and K K Ragesh, Trinamool's Dola Sen and Congress' Rajeev Satav, Ripun Bora and Hussain — refused to leave the House, leading to multiple adjournments till the Chair called it a day at 12.07 pm.

The MPs then began an indefinite sit-in near the Gandhi Statue in Parliament House and said they would not leave the premises.

While Rajya Sabha chairman Venkaiah Naidu said Deputy Chairman Harvansh, an MP from Bihar, was physically threatened by Opposition MPs on Sunday, the BJP played the 'Bihar card' keeping in mind the upcoming Assembly elections and reminded its opponents that the people of the state will not forgive them.

In the House, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan moved the motion to suspend the MPs amid Opposition's objections while Naidu announced that



Derek O'Brien of TMC and other Opposition party members stage a protest during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament on Monday. PTI

## Centre hikes MSP for rabi crops

Under attack from the Opposition over farm sector reforms, the Centre on Monday declared the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for winter crops, assuring to buy wheat at Rs 1,975 per quintal, an increase of Rs 50 over last year, DHNS reports from New Delhi.

At a special meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi a day after the farm bills were passed, it was decided to increase the support price for other rabi crops such as chana, masoor, barley, safflower and mustard.

the motion was adopted. Naidu also rejected a motion for a no-confidence motion against the government, saying it was not in proper format.

While the session is scheduled to end on October 1, the government is mulling to curtail it due to a large number of MPs and ministers contracting Covid-19.

### 'Unacceptable'

Just before taking up the motion, Naidu condemned the behaviour of the MPs and said Sunday's incidents were "unfortunate", unacceptable and one that tarnished the image of Parliament.

"It pained me a lot. It defies

logic. It was really a bad day for the Rajya Sabha," he said.

The suspension of MPs led to a variety of words being used by the government and the Opposition, with former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeting, "Muting of democratic India" continues: by initially silencing and later, suspending MPs in Parliament and turning a blind eye to farmers' concerns on the black agricultural laws. This omniscient government's endless arrogance has brought economic disaster for the entire country."

Kareem, one of the suspended MPs, said, "Suspension won't silence us. We will stand with farmers in their fight."

## Cong to launch nationwide agitation

The Congress on Monday announced a nationwide agitation from September 24 against the new farm sector reforms passed in Parliament, collecting signatures from farmers to press for repeal of "draconian laws". Details on Page 8

## Thousands of farmers hit streets in K'ta

Hundreds of farmers descended on Bengal on Monday protesting against the state government's proposed amendment to the Land Reforms Act, Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and Electricity Act in the ongoing monsoon session. Details on Page

## Govt could have got through them if there was voting on farm bills

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The passing of two farm bills without voting following pandemonium in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday has triggered a controversy amid accusations that the government panicked at the last minute about whether they could muster the numbers.

However, if one goes by the attendance sheet of MPs, the government could have got the bills passed by a margin of 5-15 votes. Though it is not

necessary that all those who signed the register, those who do not can also attend the proceedings and vote.

The Opposition by the game would have close if the BJD, BSP, AIADMK — who had 18 of their MPs present in Parliament on Sunday — could vote in favour of the bills to send the bills to select committees and not walk away. Case voting was allowed. **▶ Voting, Page 8**