

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Suspension from RS latest rallying point for Opposition

Ten key bills sail through; Upper House may be adjourned sine die

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

THE suspension of eight Rajya Sabha members for unruly behaviour appeared to have increased the index of Opposition solidarity, as all non-NDA parties in both Houses of Parliament boycotted proceedings on Tuesday, saying they will continue to abstain till the action is revoked. The government, however, insisted that the eight MPs must first express their regret before the decision can be reviewed.

With no Opposition in the House, the Rajya Sabha passed seven key bills, including the amendment to the Essential Commodities Bill within just 3.5 hours. As for the Lok Sabha, it cleared three important pieces of legislation on labour codes.

With most of its legislative business already transacted, the Upper House is expected to be adjourned sine die on Wednesday. However, five Opposition MPs boycotted the Business Advisory Committee meeting of the Rajya Sabha called by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to discuss the truncation.

Earlier, during a briefer discussion in the House, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said no one was happy with what had happened on Sunday, but MPs were denied their right to seek division on two important farm bills. "In 2016, Arun Jaitley had said that any government will

become illegitimate if the Speaker refuses to hold voting. For God's sake, do not move towards a 'one nation, one party' system," Azad urged.

He proposed that the government introduce another bill that makes it mandatory for private players not to purchase below the minimum support price (MSP). The new law should let farmers seek legal redress in case of any disputes. Also, MSPs should be announced based on the Swaminathan Committee formula, he said.

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Members of farmer organisations in Punjab return home after protesting against the passage of farm sector reform bills, in Patiala, on Tuesday | PTI