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Aadhaar, SEZ bills tabled in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The government in Lok Sabha introduced three amendment bills including one to allow voluntary use of Aadhaar as an identity proof for opening bank accounts and procuring mobile phone connections.

The other two bills introduced by the government in the Lok Sabha were the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to replace an ordinance which was promulgated in March by the previous government to pave way for trusts to set up units in the special economic zones (SEZs).

The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill seeks to provide reservation benefits to the people living in the areas adjoining the international borders at par with those living in other parts of the State.

The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which was moved by Union Information and Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in Lok Sabha, will amend the Aadhaar Act 2016 and replace an ordinance issued in March.

RSP MP N K Premchandaran opposed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill at the stage of its introduction itself, saying its provisions were in "grave violation" of the Supreme Court's judgement on Aaadhar. He raised the issue of the right to privacy and concerns over data usage.

Responding to the RSP member, Prasad said, "the issues that he (Premchandran) has raised have been dealt with elaborately by the Supreme Court. Aadhaar is a valid law. Aadhaar is in national interest and Aadhaar does not violate privacy."