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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: parliament session

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 20/9/2020

All MPs to be tested before entering Parl for monsoon session

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: All MPs, including ministers, entering Parliament during the monsoon session starting on September 16 will have to undergo testing for Covid-19, it was decided on Friday. The decision was taken after a meeting chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with senior officers and experts of the health ministry, AIIMS, ICMR, DRDO and health department of Delhi to give final shape to preparations for the session.

"All members shall be requested to undergo Covid-19 test," Birla told reporters after the meeting. He said a testing facility for Parliament staff will also be in place. "Detailed guidelines are being prepared for this. The staff may be reduced, if required. The facilities for testing of officials of ministries and personal staff of members will also be in place," he added.

Besides, there is a proposal to restrict the number of mediapersons covering proce-



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

dines. Tests will be mandatory for mediapersons as well. Birla said all precautions based on expert advice would be undertaken to ensure smooth conduct of the session and prevent spread of infection.

Thermal guns and scanner cameras will be used to measure temperature at entry points in Parliament House. In addition, measures for sanitisation of Parliament premises will be undertaken. Touch-less sanitisers will be kept at 40 places within the complex and emergency medical teams and ambulances will also be stationed.