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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Parliament

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER:

Times of India

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 4/2/21

Oppn parties in Rajya Sabha demand repeal of farm laws

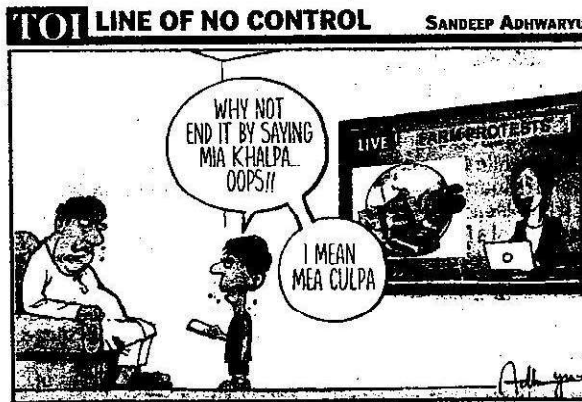
Bills Passed After Talks, Says Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Opposition parties on Wednesday asked the government to withdraw the three contentious farm laws even as BJP members in Rajya Sabha said the legislations were passed after "extensive deliberations" and would benefit the farmers and agriculture sector.

Moving the motion on Vote of Thanks to the President's address in the upper House, BJP member from Assam Bhubaneswar Kalita accused the opposition of raising the farm laws issue to disrupt House proceedings.

He said while the laws were passed after extensive debate and deliberations in both Houses, more than 10 crore



people benefitted from them. He said the government is in touch with farmers' unions to address their concerns.

BJP member from UP, Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, said, "It has been said there was no consultation before the farm laws were enacted. There have been 12 expert committees in the past two decades on the farm reform laws." He underlined that the new laws will help small farmers and the agriculture sector. He al-

so the NDA government has given more budgetary outlay for agriculture in one year than five years of UPA government.

Participating in the discussion, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Congress member Ghulam Nabi Azad suggested that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself make the announcement on repeal of the laws. The PM was present in the House at the time.

Azad also condemned the violence during the tractor rally in the capital on the Republic Day and the Red Fort incident, saying disrespect to the national flag cannot be tolerated.

"I urge the government to withdraw these three bills," he said. The senior Congress member cited several examples, including one during his own party's rule in 1988, of the government giving in to the demands of farmers.

Azad also made a case for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and holding assembly elections, saying that people of the area were not happy and development work had come to a halt. He said the PM is the only person who can find a solution to both the problems—Jammu and Kashmir and the farmers' agitation.

Earlier, chairman Venkaiah Naidu asked three AAP members to withdraw from the House amid sloganeering over the new farm laws.