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ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 07.11.2019

RS passes Transgender Rights Bill, activists upset at 2-yr penal clause

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 after a motion to refer it to a select committee of the Upper House was defeated, with 67 members opposing and 48 members voting in favour of it.

The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on August 5.

When the motion to refer the Bill to the select committee was moved by DMK's Tiruchi Siva, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Tha-

Downturn discussion

The Rajya Sabha is set to hold a discussion on the state on economy on Wednesday with the opposition MPs likely to corner the government on the issue.

war Chand Gehlot said the Bill was drafted by late BJP leader Arun Jaitley while he was the Law Minister and argued that there was no need to send it to a select committee. While Gehlot argued the Bill would eliminate discrimination and empower the community, transgender activists said the Bill had let down the community and they would continue to protest against it. Activist Kalki Subramaniam said, "What disappoints me the most is the provision for two-year punishment (for sexual abuse) ... This is not at all acceptable."

Activist Anjan Joshi said the sexual abuse of a transgender person should attract a term of seven years as under the Indian Penal Code.