

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: 22  
Parliament - Session

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 2/9/2020

# Question Hour dropped in LS schedule of monsoon session

TH-02.09.2020  
In view of the pandemic, private members business also given a miss

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha Secretariat on Wednesday officially released the schedule for the monsoon Parliament session that starts on September 14, with Question Hour being dropped.

Opposition leaders, including Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, had written to Speaker Om Birla not to curtail Question Hour as it amounted to "encroaching upon a member's right" and denied them an opportunity to question the government.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, private members business, usually fixed for every Friday, has also been skipped.

**'Extraordinary situation'**  
Asked about protests from the Opposition on Question Hour, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said Parliament was being held in the midst of an extraordinary situation. He said his colleague, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, was in touch with all parties, holding talks and would update at an appropriate time.

In a statement late in the evening, Mr. Joshi said the Lok Sabha Speaker and Ra-

## New timetable

The monsoon session, which was delayed by the pandemic, will commence on September 14 and end on October 1. It will have 18 sittings, including on Saturdays and Sundays

### LOK SABHA SCHEDULE

Sept. 14:  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

From Sept. 15:  
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### RAJYA SABHA

Sept. 14:  
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

From Sept. 15:  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Both Houses  
will be  
disinfected  
between 1 p.m.  
and 3 p.m.



The proposal to exclude Question Hour is arbitrary and undemocratic. It is members' privilege and the very life of a session

ANAND SHARMA, Congress MP

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Defence Minister spoke to the parties and they all supported this move. But now suddenly they have changed their stand

ANIL BALUNI, BJP MP



jya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu were discussing the possibility of allowing unstarred questions, answer to which are given in writing and laid on the floor of the House. Mr. Joshi also said that except Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien, other leaders didn't strongly object to cancelling the Question Hour.

Mr. Joshi said they had requested the presiding officers of both Houses to have Zero Hour - when an MP can raise any important issue - for at least 30 minutes.

The session will have staggered timings to accommodate members of one House in both chambers and follow strict physical distancing norms. On the first day, the Lok Sabha will have proceedings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. From September 15 to October 1, it will sit from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Similarly, on September 14, the Rajya Sabha will sit from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. From the second day, it will transact business between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Move upsets Opposition parties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government's decision to suspend Question Hour in the monsoon session of Parliament triggered widespread outrage among Opposition parties, which accused the government of using the pandemic as an excuse to do away with any form of accountability.

Floor leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury urged the government to revisit its decision. Question Hour was an important instrument for both the Opposition and the treasury benches, he said.

"Delayed monsoon session is one of special significance after the lockdown and phased unlocking. The proposal to exclude Question Hour is arbitrary, shocking and undemocratic. It is members' privilege and the very life of a session," tweeted Congress's deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma.

'RIGHT LOST' PAGE 10

FROM PAGE ONE

## Question Hour dropped in monsoon session

1 ctd - TH - 03-09-2020

The two-hour break between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. would be used to disinfect both the chambers, said an official.

Earlier, as reported by *The Hindu*, two four-hour slots (10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.-8 p.m.) were under discussion for staggered timings for the two Houses to meet instead of simultaneous proceedings.

The session will have 18

sittings, which includes two working Saturdays and Sundays each, and will end on October 1.

Deputy Leader of the Lok Sabha and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had reached out to senior Opposition leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mr. Chowdhury and Trinamool's Derek O'Brien before finalising the plans.