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118 amendments submitted over President's speech

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NEW DELHI, DHNS

Sixteen MPs have submitted 118 amendments in Rajya Sabha to the President's Address that kickstarted the Budget Session with around two dozen "regretting" the omission of three contentious farms laws and protest by farmers against it.

Except for YSR Congress floor leader V Vijayasai Reddy, all other 15 MPs had submitted one or more amendments related to the bills, protest or general agriculture issues.

Not all the MPs moved the amendments as the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address began, as three of them — K K Ragesh (CPM), Reddy and N D Gupta (AAP)—were not present when their names were called.

Of the 15 Opposition MPs who included amendments related to farmers, Trinamool's Nadimul Haque did not move any of his five amendments when he was called to do so in the House.

Don't shoot videos in RS: Naidu to MPs
Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday asked MPs not to record the proceedings of the House using their mobile phones and said its circulation on social media amounts to breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

Naidu said there is a restriction on the usage of mobile phones within the Rajya Sabha Chambers which is notified in the Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II, issued prior to the commencement of the sittings of a Session.

"It has been observed that some members are using their mobile phones to record the proceedings of the House while sitting in the chamber. Such conduct is against the Parliamentary etiquettes and is not expected from the members," he said.

There were at least 14 amendments that "regretted" the President not mentioning the repeal of the three laws and the Centre not intervening to repeal the laws.

Those who submitted amendments on farmers' issues included Elamaram Kareem, Ragesh and Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharyya (CPM), Tiruchi Siva (DMK) and K C Venugopal and Digvijaya Singh (Congress) and M V Shreyams

Kumar (LJD).

There were over a dozen amendments on Covid-19 related issues and its management by the government, including "detrimental impact" of the "sudden" lockdown" while half a dozen mentioned migrant workers affected by the pandemic.

Other issues mentioned in amendments included job loss, unemployment, paid news, child abuse, among others.