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LS disrupted over farm laws

Minister Pralhad Joshi accuses Opposition of going back on its word

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After the Lower House witnessed multiple adjournments over the farm laws, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday accused the Opposition of going back on its word that the House would be allowed to first take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his address to the joint session of Parliament.

As soon as the Lok Sabha convened at 4 p.m., Question Hour proceedings were disrupted as Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, wanted to raise the issue of the farm laws. Bhagwant Singh Mann, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP from Punjab, was also heard raising loud slogans demanding an immediate discussion on the farm laws.

Speaker Om Birla urged



Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. •PTI

Mr. Mann to return to his seat, and said that he would be forced to take strict action against members who repeatedly violated parliamentary decorum and dignity.

As the Opposition MPs did not relent, he adjourned the House until 4.30 p.m. When the House resumed its proceedings, Mr. Chowdhury suggested that separate time slots be allotted for discussion on the farm laws, and

the Motion of Thanks debate.

Question Hour

Mr. Birla asserted that the Question Hour was a matter of right for the MPs and the House should be allowed to function. But the advice went unheeded as more than 20 members, including from the Congress, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the AAP and the Shi-

romani Akali Dal (SAD), trooped into the Well of the House to protest.

The SAD leader and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, holding a poster against the farm laws, was among the protesting MPs who were in the Well.

The Speaker then adjourned the House until 5 p.m.

Identical scenes were witnessed once the proceedings were resumed. Mr. Birla once again reasoned with the Opposition members to go back to their seats as he wanted to start the Zero Hour. By then, Mr. Joshi informed the House that he had held discussions with Opposition leaders. He said that "these leaders" had agreed to start a discussion on the Motion thanking the President. "Now, they have made a U-turn and that is also like an insult to the President," Mr. Joshi said.