

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Rajya Sabha discusses Bill
to scrap poll spend limit
Several members raise concerns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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The Rajya Sabha on Friday discussed two private members' Bills to do away with the cap on election spending by candidates and to establish a committee on foreign investment to prevent threats to national security.

Continuing the discussion on the amendment to the Representation of the People Act, 1951, introduced by M.V. Rajeev Gowda of the Congress in the last session, several MPs raised concerns about doing away with the spending limit of ₹70 lakh per candidate.

For a part of the discussion, Prof. Gowda presided over the House in the absence of Chairperson M. Venkaiah Naidu and Deputy Chairperson Harivansh.

Black money

Opposing the Bill, Rakesh Sinha of the BJP said increasing the limit would not strengthen democracy.

Congress member P.L. Punia said the real expenditure on elections was higher than the limits and black



M.V. Rajeev Gowda

money was still prevalent. However, removing the limit would not be right, he said.

Vishambhar Prasad Nishad of the Samajwadi Party raised concerns over "paid news," saying a media company had approached him to pay ₹20 lakh in exchange for coverage. G.V.L. Narasimha Rao of the BJP said there was money being spent on "illegitimate purposes", including "paid news". He said the current limits could be reviewed, with a separate provision to allow media publicity.

The Bill to set up a committee on foreign investment was introduced by Narendra Jadhav. Both Bills would be taken up again, likely in the next session.