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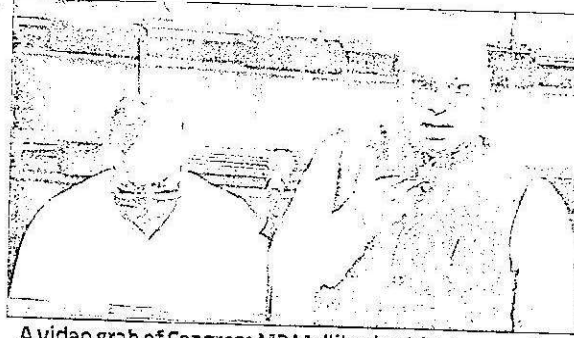
ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ಕಾರ್ಯ : DATE: 9/8/21

RS: Kharge forces adjournments over fuel price hike

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge opened his innings as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha on Monday by leading a protest against fuel price hike forcing adjournments after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu disallowed his notice to suspend the business of the House to discuss the issue.

The House, which conducted business in the first hour, could function from 10 am and the Chair announced the final adjournment of the day at 1.30 pm. Kharge had submitted the notice for suspension of business to discuss the "huge and frequent increase in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG even when global prices are ruling low" but Naidu rejected it saying it could be deliberated



A video grab of Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge speaking in the Rajya Sabha during ongoing Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. RSTV/PTI PHOTO

during the debate on Appropriation Bills, leading to an adjournment of the House while the Question Hour was on.

The Karnataka MP has recently succeeded Ghulam Nabi Azad, who retired on February 15, as the Leader of Opposition and Monday was

his first day as LoP in the Upper House. Naidu's decision to disallow Kharge's notice did not go down well with the Congress MPs who rushed to the Well of the House and started sloganeering. Kharge said it was a "very important" and "burning issue" that has agitated the people.

"Petrol and diesel prices are nearly Rs 100 per litre and Rs 80 per litre respectively. LPG prices have also gone up. Rs 21

lakh crore have been collected by putting excise duty and cess. Because of this, the entire country, including farmers, is suffering," he said.

Congress MPs refused to return to their seats, prompting Naidu to quip, "if you don't want the Question Hour to continue, if you want to deprive people of Question Hour, I can adjourn the House... Don't make a joke of democracy."

As the sloganeering continued, Naidu first adjourned the House till 11 am. When the House reassembled, Kharge once again demanded a discussion but Deputy Chairman Harivansh made it clear that the decision of the Chairman cannot be reversed.

With MPs continuing their protest, Harivansh adjourned the House till 1 pm. At 1 pm and 1.15 pm, Vice-Chairperson Vandana Chavan adjourned the House for 15 minutes each. At 1.30 pm, she announced that the House is adjourned till 11 am on Tuesday.