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Centre lines up 23 Bills, including one on MPs' pay cut, for monsoon session

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government has lined up a heavy legislative agenda for the monsoon session beginning Monday, including Bills to cut salaries of parliamentarians by 30% for one year to meet Covid exigencies and to punish assault on Covid warriors with a jail term.

Of the 23 legislations listed for the monsoon session, 11 are to replace ordinances that were issued during the inter-session period.

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks to reduce the salary of MPs by 30% for a year beginning April 1, 2020. A second key Bill will replace the Epidemic Diseases Amendment

Sonia leaves abroad for checkup

Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Saturday left for her annual medical checkup abroad along with her son, Rahul Gandhi. Gandhi, 73, is likely to miss out on the entire monsoon session of Parliament. Page 6

Ordinance, which provides preventive measures against violence on healthcare personnel and damage to property.

Aggressors will be liable for a jail term ranging from three months to seven years

plus fine between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh.

The Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Bill seeks to address the challenges faced by taxpayers due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government and the opposition are set for a face-off on the two agriculture reform ordinances that allow farmers to sell their farm produce beyond the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) and enter into farming agreements with agri-business firms.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 seeks to provide an ecosystem wherein farmers/traders can pick markets for sale and purchase.