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Trinamool, NCP, Sena to skip Parliament

Keeping Houses open 'was not the example to set'

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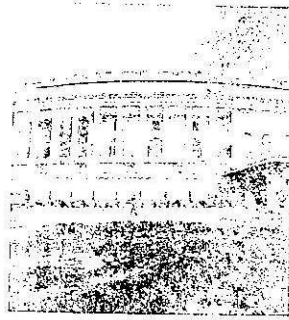
The Trinamool Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Shiv Sena on Sunday said their MPs will not attend Parliament when it reconvenes on Monday.

Sources said the House will convene on Monday, and the priority would be to clear the Finance Bill. "With Delhi going into lockdown, there is every chance that Parliament would be adjourned after that," said a source.

Letter to Speaker

While Trinamool wrote a strongly worded letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, informing them of the party's decision, NCP chief Sharad Pawar tweeted that he had asked MPs to help their constituents.

Trinamool's letter has been signed by the party's



COVID-19

leaders in both Houses - Sudeep Bandopadhyaya and Derek O'Brien. "The Prime Minister himself has spoken about the urgent need for social distancing and the need not to assemble in large groups and those above the age of 65 should take abundant care," said the letter, adding that in the face of all this, keeping Parliament open "was not the example to set".

Instead, the letter said, MPs should be sent back to their constituencies to co-or-

dinate efforts for relief work. "The All India Trinamool Congress has advised all of its parliamentarians to go back to their respective constituencies," the letter said.

Rajya Sabha MPs Sukhendu Shekhar Roy and Mr. O'Brien are in self-isolation at the moment.

The letter also suggested that both Houses be adjourned after the passage of the Finance Bill, 2020, preferably on Monday.

Finance Bill delayed

Unlike Trinamool and NCP, Congress members of the Lok Sabha will be attending the House on Monday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Opposition leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury blamed the government for delaying the Finance Bill, allowing the imposition of taxes. "The government was non-serious all this while and was taking things lightly," Mr. Chowdhury said.