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Call to refer RTI bill to select panel

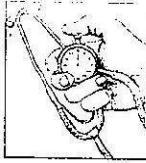
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New Delhi: The opposition is likely to move a motion in Rajya Sabha for the contentious RTI Amendment Bill to be referred to a select committee to prevent its passage in the upper House.

With the bill being passed in Lok Sabha on Monday amid objections and concerns raised by opposition MPs, all eyes are now on Rajya Sabha, where it is likely to be introduced on Tuesday.

While the government was able to use its majority in the lower House to ensure the bill's passage, it may find the going tougher in Rajya Sabha, where it does not enjoy a majority as yet.

Bill to reform medical edu tabled in LS



The government introduced the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha on Monday with an aim to reform medical education in the country. The bill – which seeks to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 – proposes to set up a National Medical Commission to replace the Medical Council of India (MCI) and reforms such as common final year MBBS exam as National Exit Text, which will serve as a licentiate exam for entrance to post graduate medical courses and as a screening test for foreign medical graduates. **TNN**

A similar motion to refer the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill was moved in the house by Nadimul Haque on Monday, but was denied by the Chairman. However, opposition parties have doubled the efforts to scuttle the passage of the RTI

Amendment Bill. Sources said Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party, NCP, Left parties, Bahujan Samaj Party, AAP, TRS and TDP are on board with the decision to demand deeper legislative scrutiny of the RTI bill and will, therefore, push that it be referred to

a select committee.

"The government's haste in wanting to pass this bill is a matter of grave concern. We believe that this is an important legislation that needs deeper legislative scrutiny for which it must be sent to a parliamentary select committee," a Rajya Sabha MP said.

A meeting led by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad will be held on Tuesday morning to firm up the strategy.

Opposition parties have contended that the government is attempting to dilute the RTI Act by seizing control of rights to determine the tenure and emoluments of information commissioners.