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Another day of turmoil in Bihar Assembly

Opposition holds parallel session, Tejashwi seeks apology from Nitish over action against MLAs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A day after they were evicted from the Assembly by the police after a scuffle, Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal legislators held a parallel session on the lawns of the House protesting against the Bihar Special Armed Police Bill, 2021.

Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, while condemning the "forcible, brutal police act", said they would boycott the Assembly for the remainder of its tenure, if Chief Minister Nitish Kumar did not apologise.

The Opposition members led by the RJD had created a ruckus inside and outside the Assembly on Tuesday over the Bihar Special Armed Police Bill, which they called "draconian".

Outside, RJD leaders had clashed with policemen. Several party leaders and poli-



Scaling up: Opposition legislators protesting against the Nitish Kumar government outside the Bihar Assembly in Patna on Wednesday. •PTI

cemen were injured. Inside the House, the protesting Opposition legislators staged a dharna outside the Speaker's chamber and prevented him from resuming the session to pass the Bill. They were forcibly ousted and allegedly "beaten up and man-handled by policemen" who

were called in by the Speaker.

RJD MLA Satish Das was seen being taken out on a stretcher.

Later, an FIR was filed against Tejashwi Yadav and several RJD leaders for clashing with the police at the Dak Bungalow intersection in the

city on Tuesday.

Mr. Yadav said the Bill had provisions that would allow the police to conduct searches and arrest anyone without a warrant. The "draconian" Bill, he said, would give absolute powers to the police, so that it could act as a veritable arm of Mr. Nitish's dicta-

torial politics. The Opposition's parallel Assembly session had senior RJD leader Bhudeo Choudhary as the "Speaker". Members of the RJD, Congress, CPI, CPI(M) and CPI(ML) carried placards with slogans against the NDA government.

Inside the House, JD(U) leader and NDA candidate Maheshwar Hazari was chosen as the Deputy Speaker by voice vote in the absence of the Opposition members.

Meanwhile, the Bihar Special Armed Police Bill, 2021 was passed in the Legislative Council too amid protests by the Opposition members.

Later, speaking to presspersons, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said the Bill would now be sent to the Governor. "The Opposition members should have participated in the debate, instead of creating pandemonium inside and outside the House".