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Three key bills fail to clear council hurdle

Assembly Had **Passed These** Proposals
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Three controversial bills related to agriculture and labour reforms, which were passed by the assembly, failed to go through in the legislative council on Saturday, the last day of the monsoon session.

While the Amendments to Industrial Disputes Act were defeated by the opposition of Congress and JD(S), the Karnataka land reforms and APMC bills could not be passed as there was not enough time.

POLITICS & POLICY

The BS Yediyurappa government may have to introduce three ordinances as a stopgap for another six months.

Prathap Chandra Shetty, the chairman of the legislative council, said the land reforms and APMC bills, which were tabled and debated, had been kept pending. "They will be taken up by the council at the next meeting," he said.

Some BJP legislators claimed that the chair abruptly stopped the proceedings without even considering the passage of what the government has described as key reforms. "While we were



1. Land reforms bill **Assembly:** Passed

Council: Nod pending

2. APMC bill

Assembly: Passed Council: Nod pending

3. Amendments to Industrial Disputes Act. Basically, labour reforms

Assembly: Passed Council: Move defeated

What govt can do now Introduce ordinance as a stopgap for another 6 months

waiting for the bills to be taken up for vote, the chair suddenly decided to end the session sine die. We will now wait for the next session," said N Ravi Kumar, a BJP member of the council.

Late on Saturday, Congress

NO CONSENSUS: Saturday was the last day of the curtailed monsoon assembly session

and JD(S) defeated the effort to pass labour policies, which contain clauses to increase the overtime of labourers. Fourteen members voted for the measure and 26 against it. The government will have to take the ordinance route again. Law minister JC Madhuswamy confirmed this. "As the council didn't pass the three bills for various reasons, the government will seek an ordinance for the next six months," he said.

BJP said Congress wanted to stall state farm policies, so it can rally support for protests. "Congress had no intention of facilitating the process. It wanted to drag the issue for more months and force the government's hand into seeking an ordinance," a minister said.