

Oppn to raise 'Epic' slip, tariffs as Parliament session resumes today

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 9

The second part of Parliament's budget Session resumes on Monday and is set to witness an 'Epic' showdown between the government and the Opposition, which is planning to raise issues like the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls, the fresh bout of violence in Manipur and India's handling of the Trump administration. The government will focus on getting Parliament's nod for the demands for grants, completion of the budgetary process, seeking approval

FOR THE GOVERNMENT, the early passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill is a priority. Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijju had said the early passage of the Bill will solve many issues of the Muslim community.

for the Manipur budget and passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill.

In the second part of the session, which will continue till April 4, Union home minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution seeking Parliament's approval for the proclamation of President's rule in Manipur.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to table the bud-

get for Manipur on Monday. The northeastern state has been under President's rule since February 13 after the resignation of chief minister N. Biren Singh.

During the second part of the session, the Opposition parties plan to corner the government over the issue of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (Epic) numbers. The Trinamul Congress (TMC) has taken

the lead in flagging the issue, following which the Election Commission (EC) declared that it will take corrective measures within the next three months.

Earlier, the EC had rejected the Trinamul Congress' claim that the voter lists were manipulated to allow voters from other states to exercise their franchise in West Bengal. The poll body had also made it clear that while the Epic numbers of some voters "may be identical" but other details such as demographic information, Assembly constituency and polling booth are different. ■ P4

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The TMC leaders are meeting the EC on Monday and have also rallied other Opposition parties, including the Congress, DMK and the Shiv Sena (UBT), to raise the issue in both Houses of Parliament during the second part of the budget session.

For the government, the early passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill is a priori-

ty. Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijju had said at a media conclave last week that the government is keen on the early passage of the Bill, as it will solve many issues of the Muslim community.

A joint parliamentary committee submitted its report on the bill in the Lok Sabha amid vociferous protests by the Opposition.

Issues such as the fresh violence in Manipur, the

threat of reciprocal tariffs by US President Donald Trump and the political furore over the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies are also expected to find an echo in Parliament.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Opposition INDIA bloc leaders will hold "extensive consultation" to jointly oppose the Waqf bill. He said that the Congress will also keep raising the

issue of irregularities in the election process, alleging that elections are "no longer free and fair" and are being "masterminded and orchestrated".

Mr Ramesh also said that the Congress will raise the issue of Mr Trump's reciprocal-tariff threats during the second half of the Budget Session and called for a bipartisan collective resolve to deal with the threats.

TMC to send team of 10 MPs to EC to file complaint on bogus voters

RAJIB CHOWDHURI
KOLKATA, MARCH 9

West Bengal's ruling Trinamul Congress is sending a team of 10 of the party's Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs to lodge a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) in New Delhi on Tuesday about the detection of many "fake voters" in the state's electoral roll.

The TMC delegation will include Derek O'Brien, Kalyan Banerjee, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Kirti Azad, Sajda Ahmed, Asit Kumar Mal, Sagarika

Ghose, Abu Taher Khan, Prakash Chik Baraik and Saket Gokhale.

They are scheduled to meet the full bench of the Election Commission at 5 pm on March 11.

They are likely to furnish the proof of bogus voters that have been found in various districts by the administration in the last few weeks, sources said.

The move came days after chief minister Mamata Banerjee accused the BJP of running a data firm to tamper with the voter list of the state.

On March 3 the Election

Commission, however, stated, "Irrespective of the EPIC number, any elector can cast a vote only at their designated polling station in their respective constituency in their state or Union territory where they are enrolled in the electoral rolls and nowhere else."

"To allay any apprehensions, the commission has decided to ensure allotment of unique EPIC numbers to registered electors. Any case of duplicate EPIC number will be rectified by allotting a unique EPIC number," the poll body has said in its statement.

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Waqf, EPIC in focus this Budget session

NEW DELHI: Parliament's Budget session resumes Monday amid indications of an 'EPIC' showdown between the government and the opposition which is planning to raise issues such as the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls, the fresh bout of violence in Manipur and India's handling of the Trump administration.

The focus of the government will be on getting Parliament nod for the demands for grants, completion of the budgetary process, seeking approval for the Manipur budget and passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill.

Home minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution seeking Parliament approval for the proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also scheduled to table the budget for Manipur on Monday. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13.

The opposition said it is set to corner the government over the issue of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. The TMC has taken the lead in flagging the issue, following which the Election Commission declared that it would take corrective measures in three months.