

2G scandal puts parliament off track for ninth day

Houses adjourned over opposition's probe demand into the 2G spectrum allocation

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New Delhi: It was the ninth successive day of no business in parliament on Wednesday with both houses being adjourned over the opposition's demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the 2G spectrum allocation.

It was another day of commotion in both houses as slogans and counter-slogans forced the presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to call it a day.

Noisy protests greeted Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar as soon as she entered the house at 11am.

Even before Meira Kumar could take her seat, MPs from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Shiv Sena, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the Janata Dal-United JD-U, the Samajwadi Party (SP) gathered near the speaker's podium shouting slogans.

They were demanding the setting up of a JPC to probe alleged irregularities in the allocation of second-generation mobile telephony spectrum that is said to have caused the national exchequer huge financial losses.

As the speaker called the question hour, the Congress' Harish Choudhary raised the issue about irrigation projects in Rajasthan. His was the first question listed for the day.

But the noise made him barely audible. The electoral victory of the BJP-JD-U combine in Bihar echoed in the house with some BJP members flaunting the triumph and shouting 'Jai Bihar' slogans. The protesting MPs also shouted slogans like 'We want JPC' and held placards reading 'We want JPC' and 'We want justice'.

Scam charges

Members from the ruling alliance led by the Congress countered with slogans and placards demanding the resignation of Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa over land scam charges.

Some Congress MPs were seen rushing to the speaker's podium with placards and shouting slogans like 'Book Bellary Brothers', 'Sack Yeddyurappa'.

The Congress' Haroon Rasheed almost reached the podium when he was stopped by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal, who asked him to return to his seat.

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