

# Parliament approves bill to restore original SC/ST Act

## Bill Passed By Voice Vote In Rajya Sabha

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

### **New Delhi:**

Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed three important bills, completing their discussion and passage in a matter of three hours. While the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018, saw a proper discussion and was unanimously passed by voice vote, noisy protests by Congress demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Rafale deal marred the discussion and passage of National Sports University Bill and Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill.

Congress members stormed the well of the House soon after passage of the SC/ST Amendment Bill, with Anand Sharma first reminding the chair of his notice under Rule 273 to raise the Rafale “scam”. When Chairman Venkaiah Naidu did not pay heed and proceeded with discussion on the National Sports University Bill, Congress members trooped into the well, shouting slogans for a JPC probe.

Naidu refused to adjourn the House despite the din and the voting on National Sports University Bill and Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill was conducted amid sloganeering. Olympic medallist and boxing champion Mary Kom, a nominated MP since 2016, too struggled to speak in favour of the National Sports University Bill in the din. Naidu later reminded the MPs that Congress had agreed to consideration and passage of the bills at the business advisory meeting in the morning. He added it was on the basis of consensus within BAC that he took up the three bills, while a fourth bill – the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill – was not considered after Congress expressed reservations.

Soon after the House reassembled post-lunch, the government took up discussion on the SC/ST Amendment Bill. Congress leader Kumari Selja faulted the government for not bringing an ordinance earlier to nullify the SC order of March 20 which had introduced safeguards against arrest while also doing away with the ban on anticipatory bail for the accused.