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Fate of GST stuck in political logjam

By ET Bureau | Jul 25, 2016, 12:38 AM IST

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NEW DELHI: Political clouds appear to be gathering over the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament, where the GST Bill tops the priority list of the government's legislative road map for the remaining two weeks of the sitting. While the ruling side's alleged efforts to scuttle a potential vote on a Private Member's Bill moved by a Congress MP seeking special category status for Andhra has set the stage for a Congress retaliation in the Rajya Sabha, the Enforcement Directorate's move to file a case against former Haryana CM [Bhupinder Singh Hooda](#) has added to the tension between the Congress and the government.

Hooda and others are accused of money laundering in connection with the allotment of a plot in Panchkula near Chandigarh to Associate Journals, the publisher of the National Herald newspaper in which Congress chief [Sonia Gandhi](#) is among the board members.



"The needlessly provocative acts of the ruling dispensation make it clear the government is not seriously committed to the legislative agenda, including GST, it is projecting before certain galleries outside Parliament," said a senior Opposition leader.



Enforcement Directorate's move to file a case against former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda has added to the tension between the Congress and the government.

It looks defusing the tension and getting Parliament to stay focused on the legislative business, especially the GST Bill, may depend on the tact of the ruling side managers, even as Congress is firming up its House strategy for Monday.

A Congress leader said the party MPs will protest in the Rajya Sabha on Monday against the "manner in which the ruling side, including a minister (a reference to Harsimrat Badal), engineered a protest in the Rajya Sabha over the [video](#) issue involving AAP [Lok Sabha](#) MP Bhagwant Mann with the sole aim of scuttling the private member's Bill". On Friday, Congress' [Kapil Sibal](#) said the PM was going back on the promise on Andhra and talked about Congress' plan to protest the move to "scuttle" the Bill. Congress feels the money-laundering case filed against Hooda is aimed at similarly targeting several other senior Congress leaders, including Gandhi.

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