

Govt may revive talaq ordinance if Oppn stalls bill

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NEW DELHI: The government will try to push the bill to criminalise the practice of instant divorce among a section of Muslims over the two remaining days of Parliament's winter session, which ends on January 8. It is also open to reintroducing an ordinance or an executive order to criminalise the practice if the legislation is not passed, according to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) functionaries.

A united Opposition on Monday last thwarted the government's attempt to push the bill in Parliament's Upper House or Rajya Sabha. Lok Sabha, or the

Lower House, earlier passed the bill on December 28.

The government was forced to issue an ordinance to criminalise the practice in September 2018 after failing to have an earlier version of the bill passed in the Rajya Sabha. The revised bill includes bail provisions as part of attempts to soften some aspects of the proposed law.

Parliamentary affairs minister Narendra Singh Tomar told HT on Sunday that the government will focus on the bill to criminalise the instant divorce along with two others to replace three existing ordinances.

The Opposition wants a joint select panel to review the divorce bill.

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