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FORECAST TEMP. Colaba Max 31 Min 21 SantaCruz Max 31 Min 20 **BONNY** Series 26483.36 WPI 9 8125.45 Gold 27504 Silver 38547 Dollar 47.25 Euro 79.81 GBP 84.43

Parliament passes Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill

BY N. N. NALIN

Keeping aside the arduousness over demonetisation issue, which paralysed the winter session, the Parliament on Friday passed the Disabilities Bill that stipulates up to two-year jail term and a maximum fine of ₹ 5 lakh for discriminating against differently-abled persons.

The Lok Sabha passed the bill within two hours after a short debate on the last day of the session with the treasury and opposition benches, who have been at loggerheads over demonetisation and other issues, joining hands to clear the legislation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the House during the pas-



sage of the bill. Earlier on Wednesday, the Rajya Sabha, too, had witnessed a similar boisterous law passage of The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2016.

Replying to the debate, social justice and empowerment minister Thawar Chand Gehlot announced

that a scheme of 'universal identity card for the disabled' is on the anvil and an agency has already been finalised for the purpose. He said that the universal identity card is being acted upon to overcome the problem of disability certificate being faced by those affected. **PTI**