LS passes inter-services organisations bill

Miffed, Rajnath moves to back seat for speech

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha passed a bill to institutionalise the inter-service organisations (ISOs) in the armed forces that will give them statutory backing and operational independence. Defence minister Rajnath Singh moved the short bill to backseat for speech in the Rajya Sabha. The bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Saturday, seeks to promote cooperation and coordination among the three services (Army, Navy, and Air Force) in order to increase their effectiveness and efficiency. The ISOs are advisory bodies that provide technical advice and recommendations to the respective service chiefs. The bill aims to provide them with a legal framework to function independently and make decisions without being overruled by the service chiefs. The government has already set up an inter-service organisation for the Indian Navy, the Inter-Service Naval Council (ISNC), and an inter-service organisation for the Indian Air Force, the Inter-Service Council (ISC). The bill seeks to provide a legal framework for the Indian Army to set up an inter-service organisation, the Inter-Service Army Council (ISAC). The bill also seeks to provide for the appointment of a director for the ISOs, who will be a career military officer appointed by the Centre. The director will be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the ISOs. The bill also seeks to provide for the publication of the minutes of the meetings of the ISOs, which will be made available to the public. The bill also seeks to provide for the right of the ISOs to have access to any information or record held by the Centre or any other authority that is necessary for the performance of their functions. The bill also seeks to provide for the appointment of a full-time legal advisor to the ISOs to assist them in their legal matters.