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"Love Jihad" - 12/2/21

Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12/2/21

No consensus, govt may not table 'love jihad' bill in budget session

Min: Will Study Legal Aspects

BV Shivashankar
@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The much-talked-about bill against 'love jihad' will not be introduced in the current legislature session, with the BJP government deciding to go slow on it. Party sources said it may not be tabled even during the budget session, scheduled to be held in March. Karnataka was set to be the fourth state after Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana to enact the an-

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who were vocal about the need to curb 'love jihad' in Karnataka. However, the government hasn't even started drafting the legislation and it did not figure among the 11 draft bills enlisted for the weeklong session which be-

gan on January 28. "At present, we're not looking at the option of tabling the bill in the legislature. Several factors, including legal issues, are to be considered before that," said law and parliamentary affairs minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The 'love jihad' ordinance promulgated by the UP and MP governments have been entangled in legal quagmire with the provisions being challenged in their respective high courts. A petition against the UP ordinance is pending before the Supreme Court. The Karnataka government wants to wait for the outcome of the case, Bommai said.

BJP fears antagonising youngsters

BJP insiders, however, said other political considerations forced the government to put the bill on the backburner. Unlike northern states, Karnataka has a considerable chunk of young voters spreading across domains, including IT, management and other service sectors. They are largely considered to be BJP voters and there is a concern that the bill may upset them. "The state unit is not discussing the anti-love jihad bill on any forum for now. Once we decide to enact the law, it will be done with proper

preparation," said BJP spokesperson and MLC N Ravikumar.

The emerging situation has given ammunition to the Congress to attack the ruling party. "Their principal objective is to polarise society by spreading communal sentiments. They just want people to discuss issues like love jihad. Beyond this, they are not interested in enacting any such law since they know it is legally not tenable," said Congress MLA HD Ranganath, adding that his party will oppose the bill if it comes up in the assembly.

K'taka decides to go slow on 'love jihad' bill

The BJP government may not introduce 'love jihad' bill in the current session of the Karnataka legislature, reports BV Shivashankar. According to sources, the ruling party has decided to go slow on the controversial law and is unlikely to table it in the budget session in March. "At present, we're not looking at the option of moving the bill in the legislature. Several factors, including legal issues, are to be considered before that," said law and parliamentary affairs minister Basavaraj Bommai. P 5