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PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Legislative Council

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 11/2/21

Report on council ruckus may be put in cold storage

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Bengaluru: The interim report of the House Committee constituted to probe the ruckus in the legislative council on December 15, 2020 seems to be headed for cold storage.

The committee headed by JD(S) MLC Marithibbe Gowda submitted the 84-page interim report on Friday after holding four meetings and collecting statements of witnesses and evidence in 20 days. It recommended action against 15 MLCs and three ministers, and constitution of a special panel for a departmental inquiry against the council secretary.

The panel constituted by council chairman Prathapchandra Shetty has sought another 20 days to submit the final report, which means it will be submitted in the budget session of the legislature expected to be held in February-March.

"It (the report) is nothing more than a chargesheet. It has no sanctity since the committee was constituted without the full consent of the House," said floor leader and minister Kota Shrinivas Poojary, who the panel has recommended should be removed from a position of responsibility.

"The report is unlikely to be implemented as several of its



UNRULY SCENES

Panel should include seniormost members

"We're not denying that the incident was a black mark in the annals of Karnataka's history. But that doesn't mean only BJP was responsible for it. The committee should be formed by involving senior members of the House. These things cannot be established in one or two months

Kota Shrinivas Poojary | LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL FLOOR LEADER AND MINISTER

key recommendations are not acceptable. This was bound to happen since our party members had resigned from the panel," said deputy CM CN Ashwath Narayan. The committee has recommended he be banned from attending two sessions of the House.

He said the committee had five members but those from BJP, H Vishwanath and SV Sankanur, resigned. "They still went ahead with it without bothering to accept their resignation or appoint new members," he added.

Poojary said the report has indicted senior JD(S) member Basavaraj Horatti though he played the role of a peacemaker. "How can the committee demean Horatti, who has been member of the House for more

than three decades, without verifying the facts," the floor leader sought to know.

According to some members, BJP has already given a notice to move a no-confidence motion against incumbent chairman Shetty, which may force him to resign. In that case, the new chairman may either constitute a new panel or the report may be kept in abeyance. But it's not over yet. The chairman had earlier rejected the notice issued by BJP seeking to move a no-confidence motion, and in case he does it again, it may lead to more confrontation and drama.

"All partymen must be blamed for the mistake. Now, we should focus to avoid such incidents in future," said Congress MLC K Govindaraju.