

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ
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SC schedules Goa MLAs' defection case for February

Cong. leader says Speaker is delaying decision

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"Nobody can have a vested right to delay," Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde, heading a three-judge Bench hearing a plea filed by Goa Congress leader Girish Chodankar, said on Monday.

Mr. Chodankar had complained about the delay of over a year and a half by the State Assembly Speaker to decide the disqualification petitions filed against 10 Congress MLAs who defected to the BJP in July 2019. The Supreme Court Bench scheduled the case for hearing in the second week of February.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the Congress, and Mr. Chodankar said a year and a half had passed without the Speaker taking a call. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for the legislators, said a

reply had been filed to the plea and the case should be heard on its merits. However, Mr. Sibal said it should be left to the Speaker to decide the disqualification proceedings on merits expeditiously.

Mr. Chodankar had also asked the court to restrain the 10 legislators, who include three State Ministers, from participating in the House proceedings.

He had alleged that these MLAs, purportedly claiming to form two-thirds of the Congress, "decided to merge the said legislature party with the BJP" and addressed a communication to that effect to the Speaker. Based on the communication, the Speaker was pleased to take note of the alleged merger of the Congress Legislature Party in the Assembly, and allotted 10 seats in the House along with BJP members.