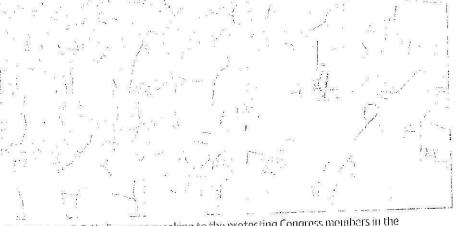
## Sparks fly over charge that debate is RSS agendia

We are from RSS and are proud of it: Chief Minister Yediyurappa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The allegation by Opposition Congress members that the special debate in the Karnataka Assembly on the theme one nation, one election was part the RSS agenda triggered heated exchange between Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and the protesting members.

The Congress members, who resorted to protest in the well of the Assembly against the protest in the ed for protest in discussing such a theme in the ongoing actsion, alleged repeatedly that the topic of the debate was an "agenda of the RSS".



Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa speaking to the protesting Congress members in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday. \*\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a counter-attack, Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kage-ri-said, "Why are you bringing the name of the RSS here? Talk about us who are in this House and not the

RSS."

Mr. Yediyurappa lost his cool iowards the end of the day's session, when protests continued. He said, "What is that RSS agenda you are talking about? The Prime Minister of this country himself is from the RSS." He told Congress members that they

were "grounded throughout the country" because of such an attitude. "You are shouting here just because you have some 55 members fin the House]," he said.

Belore winding up, he remarked, "Yes we are from the RSS. We are proud to say

that." Meanwhile, JD(S) members staged a walkout expressing dissatisfaction over they not getting an opportunity to speak. JD(S) member Bandeppa Kashempur told reporters that they were not in favour of the theme of the debate. But they wanted to convey this by participating in the debate.

'Saves morney, time'
Earlier in the day, Mr. Kageri
argued that if implemented,
'one nation, one election'
would save a lot of money,
time, and burden on human
resources, and accelerate the
progress of the country.

Amid protest by the Congress, Mr. Rageri read out his 18-page speech on the theme and said 360,000 expenditure was incurred on conducting the 2019 Lok Sabha election and elections to three States.

Elections were conducted

at one time for Parliament and State Assemblies from 1952 to 1967. But in the 1970s. State Assemblies were dis solved before the term and mid-term elections 100 were held for the Assemblies and the Lok Sabha in 1970s end 1980s onwards, he said.

The Speaker quoted statements made by various leaders supporting 'one nation, one election' and said frequent elections in one or the other part of the country adversely impacted the economy and development.

Mr. Kageri said at least five amendments had to be made to the Constitution for 'one nation, one election' to be implemented. Electoral reforms were the need of the hour to contain influence of money and caste in elections. He pointed out that there were 1,200 political parties in the country and of them 150 were active.