

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ: DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

Speaker

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER :

Deccan Herald

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 07/07/21

## Speaker bides his time to look into resignations

To initiate the process on July 9

**BENGALURU:** All eyes are on Assembly Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, who said he would start the process of looking into the resignation of the MLAs on July 9.

Thus, Kumar is seen to have bought some time for the Congress-JD(S) coalition to manage the crisis that hit the roof on Saturday, when 12 MLAs tendered their resignation.

"They have given their resignation letters to my personal secretary. I have asked my office to give those MLAs an acknowledgement," Kumar told reporters. "As per rules, they have to personally hand over their resignation to me."

In a day that witnessed much drama, Kumar reached his Vidhana Soudha office Saturday morning and held a meeting with the additional chief secretary (finance). Dismissing speculation that MLAs would resign, Kumar said: "It's just a rumour. Trust me, and don't trust them."

Kumar left for Jayadeva Hospital where his relative is admitted. By then, some MLAs had arrived at his Vidhana Soudha office. When asked about it, Kumar lost his cool. "Are you human beings? Don't you have a sense of shame? My relative is on the death bed. Get out from here (sic)," he thundered.

Later, when his temper cooled down, Kumar said no MLA had sought his appointment. "How'd I know MLAs were coming?" he said. "My wife's brother is hospitalised and in bad condition. I had



**JD (S) MLA A H Vishwanath addresses the media after rebel MLAs submitted a copy of resignation letters to the Governor at Raj Bhavan, in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P**

### Ball in Speaker's court, says Gowda

"The ball is in the court of the Speaker," JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda said even as the government headed by his son, Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy faced its worst nightmare Saturday. Gowda was holed up in the JD(S) headquarters where he held talks with party leaders on the forthcoming corporation polls. He refused to take any questions on the survival of the Congress-JD(S) coalition. "Let's not discuss that now," he said, asking reporters to leave.

to rush there. On Sunday, I will go back to my native. On Monday, I have some prior engagement. So, I will go to my office on Tuesday next and I will act on the resignation letters as per rules," he said.

Kumar belongs to the Congress and the Congress is

understood to be banking on him to delay the process so as to buy some time to manage the crisis. "As the Speaker, I belong to no party. I will work in a non-partisan manner," Kumar maintained.

It may be noted that the Speaker took nearly a month to decide on the resignation of Umesh Jadhav, who had resigned as Congress' Chincholi MLA. Jadhav's resignation was accepted and he went on to defeat Congress veteran Mallikarjun Kharge in the Gulbarga Lok Sabha seat to become a BJP MP.

### 'Will go by gov's decision'

Meanwhile, Union minister D V Sadananda Gowda said in Mysuru that the BJP would honour whatever the decision the Governor takes. He told media persons, "The state is reeling under severe drought. There is no water for people and cattle. In such a situation, it is not just to go for mid-term elections. We will urge the Governor to allow us to form the government as the BJP has emerged as the single largest party in 2018 Assembly polls."