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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Land Reform Bill

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# State govt passes land reforms Bill with JD(S) support

Cong left stunned by outcome in Council after 10 JD(S) members back Bill

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Yediyurappa government on Tuesday managed to pass the controversial 'Karnataka Land Reforms Bill' through the Legislative Council after the JD(S) surprisingly backed it, much to the shock and dismay of the Congress.

JD(S) Council members, who stood by farmers in the morning as Bharat Bandh began, softened their stand and supported the Bill, which amends the Karnataka Land Reforms Act (1961), allowing non-agriculturists to buy agricultural land in Karnataka.

The amendment was passed with 37 votes in favour — BJP and JD(S) — and 21 votes against from the Congress. Except one, 10 JD(S) MLCS voted in favour of the amendment moved by the BJP.

The surprise outcome comes amid talk of growing closeness between the JD(S)

and the BJP and the recent war of words between HD Kumaraswamy and Congress' Siddaramaiah.

The contentious Bill, tabled by Revenue Minister R Ashoka, had earlier been passed by the Assembly by voice vote during the monsoon session in September.

Dissenting against the Bill, opposition leaders voiced concern, saying many farmers would be deprived of ownership of their land due to the new rules. Leader of the Opposition in the Council S R Patil said the government is introducing the amendments just to obey the High Command.

► Land reforms, Page 6



Cops detain people protesting against the passing of Land Reforms Bill in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

BJP will start awareness yatras: Ravi

The BJP will carry out awareness yatras across India on the three controversial farm laws to mobilise farmers' support, the party's national general secretary C T Ravi said, asserting that those who knew the facts were in favour of the Centre's stand.

Details on Page 6

Kejriwal under 'house arrest', alleges AAP

The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday claimed that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was put under house arrest to prevent him from going to the capital's border to express solidarity with farmers. But Delhi Police denied the allegations as "baseless".

Details on Page 7

## Talks fail, govt to present proposals today; bandh gets mixed response

SAGAR KULKARNI  
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Home Minister Amit Shah has rejected the demand to repeal the three farm laws after meeting a small group of farmers' leaders on Tuesday night, even as farmers across the country staged Bharat Bandh in a show of strength.

The shutdown call receiving a mixed response, with northern states like Punjab and Haryana reporting

widespread protests. But it evoked a partial response in Karnataka.

On Tuesday night, Shah went into a "huddle" with a few farmer leaders. After the meeting, leaders announced that there would be no further talks with the government.

"The home minister told us that a proposal will be given to the farmer leaders by 11 am on Wednesday. We will hold a meeting over the government's proposal and

decide the future course of action," Jagjit Singh Dalewal, president of Bhartiya Kisan Union-Sidhupur, told DH after the two-and-a-half-hour meeting with Shah.

Dalewal said the "refrain of the government again was to have a point-by-point discussion on our concerns". "We told them we have had enough of these discussions and now want a result from the government," he said.

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## State govt passes land reforms Bill...

LAND REFORMS, FROM  
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"You can either create history and be remembered for generations to come by taking a pro-farmer stand or you will eventually pay for the consequences of these amendments in the days to come," he said.

Several Opposition MLCS including B K Hariprasad, Maritibbegowda criticised the government over the amendment.

Unfazed by the criticism, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa clarified that the government has put a condition for buyers, according to which they will have to use the purchased irrigated land for irrigation purposes only.

"Farmers are intelligent and no farmer will sell their land just because there is a law. Our government will not bring any law which would be detrimental to the interest of farmers. We have used only two per cent of land in the state for industries and the proposed amendment is to help industries flourish in Karnataka," Yediyurappa said.

Following a heated argument, Congress leaders surprisingly demanded the division of votes, under the assumption that a combined Congress-JD(S) would defeat it, even as eight Congress MLCS were absent in the House.

Much to their shock, JD(S) MLCS barring Maritibbegowda supported the bill and voted in favour of the government, leaving the Congress members scratching their heads.

Bengaluru

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