

Basavaraj Horatti elected Council chairperson amidst din

BJP and JD(S) join hands in the Upper House

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BENGALURU, DHNS

The Janata Dal (Secular) MLC Basavaraj Horatti was elected the chairperson of the Karnataka Legislative Council on Tuesday, amidst furore from Congress leaders.

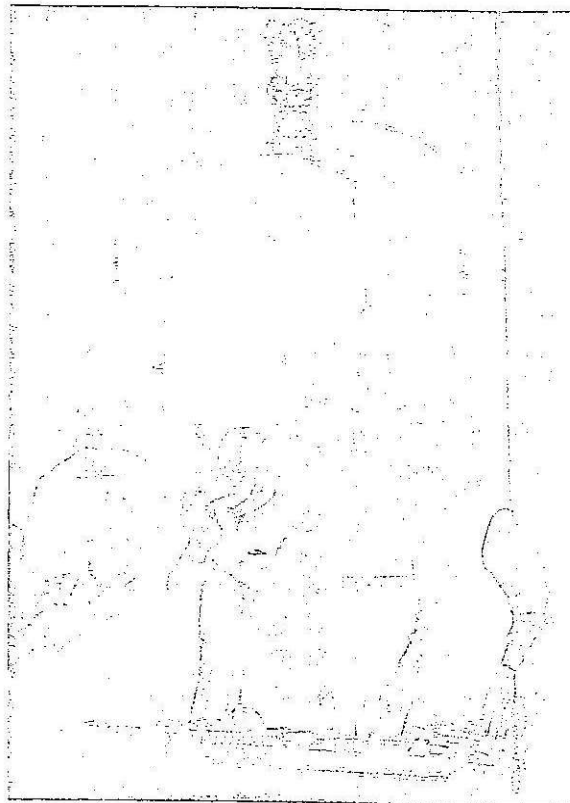
The election for the post took place even as Congress leaders staged a protest in the well of the House, against passing of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill. Congress MLCs argued that the Bill was passed in an "undemocratic" manner overlooking their demand for a division of votes.

Notwithstanding their protest, the election was announced. Even though Congress had nominated MLC Naseer Ahmed as a contestant, the party leaders refused to take part in the election process claiming that the House was not in order. As a result, the House declared Horatti "unanimously elected."

Horatti was escorted to the chairperson's seat and he took charge of his new post amidst a din. Congress leaders continued to stand in the well of the House throughout the proceedings.

The election was necessitated after former chairperson and Congress MLC Pratapchandra Shetty resigned, owing to a no-confidence motion against him.

The BJP and JD(S) joined hands in the Upper House electing Horatti as the chairperson. Horatti is a seven-time MLC. He was nominated as pro-tem chairperson of the Council for a brief period during the Congress-JD(S) coalition in 2018.



JD(S) MLC Basavaraj Horatti assumes charge as the chairperson of the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

DP PHOTO/MS MANJUNATH

Congress protests fuel price hike

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Congress staged a protest in Bengaluru on Tuesday, protesting the increase in price of fuels and other essential commodities.

The protest was organised by the Bangalore Central, North and South Congress units, in which KPCC working presidents Ramalinga Reddy, Saleem Ahmad and other senior leaders of the party took part.

Congress MLA Krishna Byre Gowda accused the government of fleeing the common man by increasing fuel prices. "Crude oil prices in international markets is half the price it was during UPA rule. Yet, people are made to pay almost double for petrol and diesel," he added.

MLC for four decades, Horatti will now monitor Upper House

'Of late I am unhappy with the proceedings in the House'

BENGALURU, DHNS

From disciplining the school as a physical education teacher four decades ago, seven-time JD(S) MLC Basavaraj Horatti will now monitor the Legislative Council as its chairperson.

The senior JD(S) leader started his career as PE teacher at Lamington High School in

Hubballi in 1975. Having taken part in activism for teachers' rights, he was first elected as an MLC from the Teachers' constituency (West) in 1980.

Ever since, he has been consecutively elected as an MLC from the constituency for 41 years. Horatti has also served as a minister. He was the Science and Technology and Rural Development minister in the Congress and the JD(S) coalition government in 2004. Later, in the 2006 BJP-JD(S) coalition, he held the Primary and Secondary Education, and Law and Parliamentary Affairs portfolios. He was nominated as pro-tem chairperson of the Council for a brief period, during the Congress-JD(S) coalition, in 2018.

will ensure that the schedule is maintained," he assured. The state government spends anywhere between Rs 25,000 and Rs 4 lakh per question, for ensuring replies to the questions raised in the Council. The time spent on questions must ensure justice to the public at large, he added.

The senior JD(S) leader is believed to have an amicable relationship among members of all parties. Upon him taking charge, several ruling party leaders and JD(S) MLCs called him an "undisputed leader" when it came to teachers' constituency.

"Of late, I am unhappy with the proceedings in the House," he said. He will conduct a meeting with all the floor leaders and will ensure that the rules of the House are followed, he added.

"Be it when the House commences or the Question Hour, I

will ensure that the schedule is maintained," he assured. The state government spends anywhere between Rs 25,000 and Rs 4 lakh per question, for ensuring replies to the questions raised in the Council. The time spent on questions must ensure justice to the public at large, he added.

The senior JD(S) leader is believed to have an amicable relationship among members of all parties. Upon him taking charge, several ruling party leaders and JD(S) MLCs called him an "undisputed leader" when it came to teachers' constituency.

"He is so committed to addressing the problems faced by

teachers that he is an undisputed leader. When we seek vote from our well wishers, they tell us that they will vote for BJP in any other election, but will vote only for Horatti when it comes to teachers' constituency polls. Medium and Large Scale Industries Minister Jagadish Shetty said.