

NO QUESTIONS

OPPN BOYCOTTS 'IMMORAL' NETAS

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FORMER minister and Congress MLA from ChamaraJanagar C Puttarangashetty ruffled the feathers of BJP members after he refused to ask his starred question.

Before the commencement of the session, he had submitted his question for Youth Empowerment and Sports and Planning Minister Narayana Gowda to be answered during the Question Hour.

Although the response was kept prepared by the minister, the MLA stood up to inform the House that he would not seek answers from the minister over his alleged "immoralities".

His protest put the BJP on the backfoot. "I no longer want an answer to this question because the minister has no morality to answer it. I will not seek answers from an immoral minister," said Puttarangashetty causing a stir in the House.

He was referring to Gowda approaching a court along with four other ministers, seeking an injunction to stop any possible defamatory content against them in the media. Miffed over Puttarangashetty's comments, Narayana Gowda demanded that his remarks be expunged from the records.



Karnataka Legislative Assembly in session at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday | EXPRESS

Privilege motion against MLA for shirtless act

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THE morning session of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly ended in a ruckus after BJP MLA Araga Jnanendra moved a breach of privilege motion against suspended Congress MLA BK Sangamesh. Alleging that the Bhadravathi MLA — who took off his shirt inside the House in protest — had insulted the legislature and the Speaker's chair, Jnanendra sought the action.

Congress erupted in protest against the motion, with Sidaramaiah leading his MLAs into the well of the House. Amid loud sloganeering by the Congress, Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri pressed on Jnanendra to finish his preliminary submission. Following the chaos, Kageri sent the motion to the Privileges Committee without debating it in the House, in-

sisting that the Congress was not providing a conducive environment for debate.

"Since you are unwilling to debate anything, I will send this directly to the committee that will look into the indecent, irresponsible behaviour of the MLA who also insulted the Speaker's chair," Kageri said.

The Congress contended that the motion was being passed in the absence of Sangamesh, who has been suspended for a week. When Jnanendra was allowed to make his preliminary submission and called Sangamesh's protest indecent, Congress took to protest. Meanwhile, Congress MLAs demanded that the sleaze tapes purportedly involving BJP MLAs were indecent, and they needed to be debated. An agitated Kageri chided the Opposition for continuously stalling business and adjourned the House till post-lunch.

Urban devpt minister left red-faced

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THE subject of CDs used to blackmail politicians left Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj red-faced in the Upper House on Tuesday, after members refused to ask him their questions, saying he had no moral right to answer them.

MLC CM Ibrahim raised the issue, asking if the government was aware of the issue. The government replied in the negative. Accusing the government of lying, Ibrahim said he would move privilege motion. Meanwhile, MLCs R Prasanna Kumar and Basavaraj Patil Itagi refused to ask Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj their questions, saying that he had no moral right to answer them as he had sought an injunction over the fallout from the Ramesh Jarkiholi CD controversy, and was therefore acting against his oath of office and was therefore obliged to be unbiased.

The Chairman did not allow them to speak on the issue saying that there was no permission to discuss other issues during question hour, to which Congress members objected, saying no unparliamentary words were used.

IN THE ASSEMBLY

Will personally shoot tigers: BJP MLAs

Clearly agitated with the delay in capturing tigers attacking people and cattle in their constituencies, BJP MLAs KG Bopalah and Appachu Ranjan on Tuesday asked Forest Minister Arvind Limbavali to address the issue at the earliest or let them handle it their way. "In Coorg, we have a tradition of 'Huli Madve' (tiger wedding). We know how to deal with it," said Bopalah. Ranjan bravely added, "I will personally go shoot the tiger down." ENS

Missed call of duty as confusion reigns

During question hour on Tuesday, Sports and Youth Empowerment Minister Narayana Gowda was busy chit-chatting with Shivaram Hebbar when a question related to his ministry was asked. Speaker Kageri had to call out the minister four times before Gowda realised he had to respond to the question. Barely an hour later, Tourism Minister CP Yogeshwara was busy talking to a party colleague when the Speaker called out to him. ENS