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## No change in quotas till SC order: Bommai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state government will not make any changes to the current reservation policy till the Supreme Court gives its verdict on extending caste-based quo-

tas beyond 50%, law minister Basavaraj Bommai said in the assembly on Wednesday,



amid growing demands from Panchamasali Lingayats, Kurubas and other communities in the state.

"The SC, which is hearing a petition in the case of the Maratha quota in Maharashtra, is the only beacon of light for us to consider the growing demands for reservation, or an increase in reservation," Bommai said.

▶ Report to court, P 4

## Quota: K'taka to give report to SC

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ommai was replying to a query from senior BJP MLA Basannagouda Patil Yatnal during Zero Hour.

"This problem is not limited to Karnataka. All states are facing similar issues, especially due to the growing demands of backward class communities seeking additional reservation. We can think of extending or increasing reservation only if the apex court considers our plea to go beyond 50% cap," he said, rejecting Yatnal's demand for a deadline to change the category of reservation for Panchamasali Lingayats. Karnataka will soon submit its opinion to the top court, seeking increase beyond 50% after consulting experts and political parties, he added.

Bommai said the state government recently constituted a three-member committee to study the demands of the communities and suggest to the government the best possible approach to accommodate them. "Once we get their report, we will act accordingly." Bommai said, adding that quantifiable data would be required to determine the need to change reservation parameters for any community.

Yatnal responded that the Panchamasalis are not seeking an increase in quota but only a change in category — from 3B to 2A — within the 50% cap. He also raised the inclusion of the Banajiga or Balajiga community under 2A by the Yediyurappa government in 2011, to which Bommai said only names which are synonyms of Banajigas communities, like Dasa Banajiga and Dasara Banajigas, which were left out of 2A, were included.

As Yatnal insisted on a deadline of three months to one year to meet the demand of Panchamasalis, Bommai said the demand is being studied by the other backward classes (OBC) commission. "We will expedite the process to fulfill their demands at the earliest once we get the report," he said.