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Chaos in Vidhana Soudha,

HDK govt hits...

Chaos, from Page 1 D.H.

This happened right in front of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Dinesh Gundu Rao. Despite police presence, Sudhakar was dragged into Industries Minister KJ George's chamber where he was confined for nearly half an hour so that Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah could talk him out of the resignation.

The BJP entered the scene protesting the way Sudhakar was treated, leading to a skirmish with Congress leaders. The drama saw Bengaluru city police commissioner Alok Kumar rushing to Vidhama Soudha with additional forces. The police brought Sudhakar out of confinement following Governor Vajubhai R Vala's intervention and he was taken to Raj Bhavan.

Condemning the manhandling of the rebel MLA, the BJP demanded immediate sacking of the ruling coalition.

Siddaramaiah, however, played it down: "He was not taken forcibly by anybody and there was no coercion. He's our friend and well-wisher. He's our MLA."

With 16 MLAs having tendered resignations and two Independent MLAs supporting the BJP, the ruling coalition's tally is down to 101 against the BJP's 107.

Earlier in the day, BJP state president B S Yeddyurappa led a delegation to Raj Bhavan seeking the Governor's intervention on the grounds that the government was in a minority. The saffron party also complained against the Speaker, accusing him of allowing a minority government to function.

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