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Rebels go to SC with plea against Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi
TEN rebel Karnataka lawmakers on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court alleging that Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar had abandoned his constitutional duty and was deliberately delaying accepting their resignations. Their plea will be heard by a bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose on Thursday.

The plea filed by the MLAs states, "Notwithstanding the same and fearing that the Chief Minister (H D Kumaraswamy) may have to tender resignation for want of confidence of the House, the Speaker is acting in a partisan manner to frustrate the will of the House." It also claimed that Ramesh Kumar left in a private car and became untraceable after becoming aware of their resignations.

During a brief mentioning of the petition, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi sought urgent hearing and said, "Time is of the essence."

The bench took note of the submission and said it will consider if the petition can be listed on Thursday.

In the petition, the MLAs stated that the Assembly Session is to begin from July 12, the same day that they have been asked to appear in person before the Speaker, which showed the "intent of the Speaker to disqualify the petitioners in a prejudged manner".