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**Jolt for TMC:
Dinesh Trivedi
quits from
Rajya Sabha**

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New Delhi/ Kolkata: In yet another setback to Trinamool Congress ahead of the Bengal assembly elections, former Union minister Dinesh Trivedi resigned from the Rajya Sabha on Friday, saying he was "feeling stifled" and his "conscience" told him to resign as MP and "go and work for the people of Bengal and India".

Trivedi's resignation came in a dramatic fashion in the Upper House after the time allotted to Trinamool Congress to respond to the Union budget. He parroted



Dinesh Trivedi

several lines that BJP leaders have been using to describe Trinamool, including the charge that the party is being "run by corporates", indicating that he is headed out of Trinamool and towards BJP. Soon after announcing his resignation on the floor of the House, he handed in his papers to Rajya Sabha chairman and Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.

Without taking the name of Prashant Kishor, who has been roped in by Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to plan her election campaign, he told reporters: "When the party goes into the hands of a corporate professional, he is running the party... somebody does not know the ABC of politics, he is becoming my नेता. So what can people do in such a situation?"

Trivedi did not spell out his political future till Friday evening. "I am with myself," he said. "Had I wanted to be in the RS, why would I resign?" he said when asked whether he was eyeing the March 1 Rajya Sabha election from Gujarat (where two seats were vacant).

Trinamool reminded Trivedi that he felt "stifled" immediately after his loss in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll as well and said he would feel "stifled" in BJP if he did not get what he was looking for.