

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಕುಣಿಕೆಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

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## Kumar defers hearing on disqualification petition

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** In a sudden move, speaker KR Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday indefinitely put off hearing on a disqualification petition moved by the Congress against four of its rebel MLAs.

The speaker had summoned all four rebels including Chincholi MLA Umesh Jadhav, who resigned from his assembly membership last week and joined the BJP, to appear before him and present their case on Tuesday. But he deferred the hearing without giving any reason.

However, Jadhav visited Kumar's office in his absence and handed over a written explanation the latter had sought with regard to his resignation. The speaker is yet to accept Jadhav's resignation.

"The speaker is an upright man and nobody can dictate terms to him," said Jadhav, who is set to take on veteran Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge from Kalaburagi constituency in the Lok Sabha polls. "I am confident and hopeful that the speaker will accept my resignation."

### Can he contest LS election?

Legal experts say Jadhav can contest Lok Sabha elections even



Umesh Jadhav



Ramesh Kumar

though his resignation from the state assembly has not been accepted.

"The speaker cannot sit on resignations forever," said Ashok Harahalli, former advocate general. "He has to give his decision within a reasonable time. Now that he has neither rejected nor accepted the resignation, Jadhav is free to contest elections. There are absolutely no legal hurdles."

Another lawyer said denying a person an opportunity to contest elections just because his resignation has not been accepted amounts to violation of rights. "Since the MLA has met the speaker in person and handed over his resignation in a correct format, there is no reason for the speaker to reject it," the lawyer said.