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move top court 5 more rebels

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TO ensure that numbers are on its side, Congress has issued whip to all its MLAs and the rebels have been warned of disqualification. Party leaders are confident that they can surpass the half-way mark if the Supreme Court takes some more time to decide on the petition of the rebels as the Speaker has raised larger Constitutional issues and apprised the court of the pending disqualification petitions against three MLAs, including Ramesh Jarkiholi.

However, sources pointed out that the rebels, whose pe-

tition is pending before the Supreme Court, are in touch with legal experts to find out if the whip applies to them as they have submitted their resignations beforehand. One of the rebel MLAs claimed that at this point of time, they are not members of the Assembly.

Senior advocate and former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for the 10 rebel MLAs in the Supreme Court, in his opinion, stated that the court order restraining the Speaker from deciding on the resignations covers the whip too.

However, Congress leader V



'Whip applies to rebels too till resignations are accepted'



Former chief minister Siddaramaian met with MLA M T B Nagarai and minister Zameer Ahmed Khan at his house in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

S Ugrappa argued that the whip applies to the rebels too as they continue to be members of the House till their

resignations are accepted. The MLAs have already violated the whip by staying away from the legislature session, he stressed.

But former state Advocate General Ashok Haranahalli referred to a Kerala High Court ruling which said the members cannot be disqualified after submitting their resignation.

Meanwhile, the BJP is still bullish on defeating the trust vote. Party state president and opposition leader B S Yeddyurappa said the people of Karnataka want the coalition government to go.

Party leaders also held a meeting to take stock of the situation, and also to thwart any attempt at reverse poaching by the ruling coalition.