

# SIDDU FOR NATIONWIDE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY TO ADDRESS RESERVATION ISSUE

Only scientific way to solve issue, says former chief minister, accuses BJP of not providing social justice to all

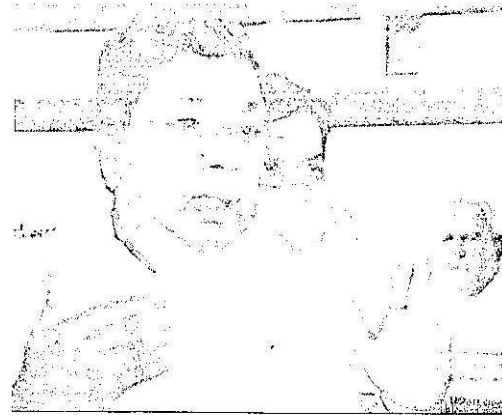
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah has demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhibit political will and order a nationwide caste-based socio-economic survey to set right the mess created owing to different communities seeking reservation or enhancement in quota.

The former chief minister told reporters here on Sunday, that such a survey was the only scientific benchmark to resolve the issue as courts, in the past, have asked for "authentic data to justify the demand for reservation".

The CLP leader said the ruling BJP had no political conviction and was only concerned about winning elections, and not committed to providing social justice to all.

Asked about the Supreme Court seeking views on reservation from the State before



Former chief minister Siddaramaiah addressing the media at Mysuru airport on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

March 23, Siddaramaiah said the State Government should discuss the matter with Constitutional experts before submitting a report to the apex court. He said the Constitutional Bench hearing the matter should relax the limit on reservation as the 1992 Indra Sawhney judgment had capped res-

ervations at 50 per cent.

He accused former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy of intentionally not making the caste census data public. "If it was made public, the then government would have been forced to accept the recommendations," he said.

Siddaramaiah also lashed



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CLP leader Siddaramaiah accusing ex-CM HD Kumaraswamy of intentionally not making caste census data public

out at the Yediyurappa government for sanctioning ₹500 crore each for dominant communities, and ignoring SCs/STs and backward classes. "What moral right do they have to speak about social justice?" he thundered.

Asked about the SIT probe into the CD row, he said such cases have tarnished the image of those in public life in the past. KPCC president D K Shivakumar himself has said he has been unnecessarily targeted in the issue, he added.

## 'No alliance with JDS'

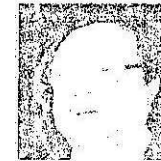
Asked about JDS claiming support of Congress in the Mysuru Milk Union (MyMUL) polls, he said, "I am not in support of this. There is no alliance between Congress and JDS. In a few cases, it depends on local sentiments as society elections are not held on party symbols. As far as I am concerned, there is no alliance with JDS — now or in future."

## 'Quota not for poverty alleviation'

ENS @ Bengaluru

RESERVATION is not a poverty alleviation programme, Justice Nagamohan Das said at a symposium on reservation, which sought to examine the reality of reservation, here, on Sunday.

Inaugurating the seminar, he said, "It is not right to tarnish the issue of reservation or show it in bad light." While the reservation issue has hogged the headlines continuously for the past few weeks, the symposium was organised to take



stock of the reality of reservation organised by the Praja Parivartana Vedike.

He said people understand the Constitution, and the issue of plurality is sufficient. Every community is enjoying the benefits of reservation, and to talk about SC/ST reservation by showing it in bad light is not correct. He said there is the issue of 'equitable reservation' for all, meaning reservation within reservation, considering some castes within the reserved categories have received the lion's share, leaving little for the others.

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