

Govt defers tabling bill yet again

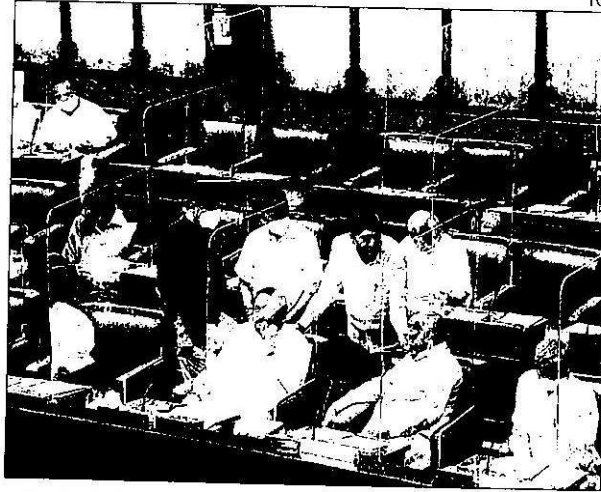
JD(S) Rules Out Support For Law; Ordinance Likely

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Bengaluru: The BJP's second attempt to table the anti-cow slaughter bill in the legislative council failed on Tuesday as the session was adjourned indefinitely after a row over a no-confidence motion against the House chairman.

COW SLAUGHTER BAN

The government reiterated that it would consider bringing an ordinance to enable implementation of the proposed law. The bill, which calls for a blanket ban on killing of cattle, was passed by the assembly during the win-



NUMBERS GAME: BJP is the largest party in the Upper House, but the combined opposition of Congress and JD(S) has an edge

ter session of the legislature, which ended on December 10. But it could not be tabled in the council as JD(S), whose support BJP needed, categorically refused to endorse it.

Though BJP is the largest party in the Upper House, the combined opposition of Congress and JD(S) has a numerical edge. The council reconvened for one day on Tuesday,

primarily to discuss BJP's no confidence motion against chairman Prathap Chandra Shetty. BJP members had also planned to list the anti-cow slaughter bill, but chaotic proceedings proved to be a hurdle. According to some party functionaries, it was always a long shot as JD(S) is still not on board.

Animal husbandry minister Prabhu Chauhan said that the government still had the ordinance option. "I will meet chief minister BS Yediyurappa in this regard soon and the final decision will be taken," he added.

Hours before the session began on Tuesday, JD(S) supremo and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda shared an open letter, stating the party was against the anti-cattle slaughter bill. He alleged that it was an attempt to divide society on communal lines and that JD(S)

would not support it. He said that the BJP government of 2008-13 introduced a similar law despite protests by JD(S) and Congress, and secured the President's assent. "After the change of government, we saw the act being repealed. Now, a similar bill has been introduced and it could wreak havoc in the lives of people, especially farmers. We will oppose it," he said.

As JD(S) clarified its stand, the bill had little chance of success in the council. It would have been voted down or referred to a joint select committee for scrutiny. But Tuesday's ruckus has given BJP an excuse to introduce an ordinance and justify the decision before the governor.

Reacting to Deve Gowda's statement, Chauhan said: "Our intent is quite clear: it is to protect cattle, which have no ways of expressing their pain."