

MARATHA BOARD

BSY slams Maha Deputy CM over border issue

State rejects demand to withdraw order on Maratha Board

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KARNATAKA Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday hit out at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar for his remarks on incorporating Belagavi and other Marathi-speaking areas in the state into Maharashtra. This comes at a time when pro-Kannada organisations and opposition parties are up against the Yediyurappa Government's decision to constitute a Maratha Development Board.

"I condemn Maharashtra DyCM Ajit Pawar's statements. The whole world knows that the Mahajan Commission's decision is final," Yediyurappa said, responding to Ajit Pawar's remarks. On Tuesday, Pawar had reportedly stated that they should resolve to fulfil Bal Thackeray's dream of incorporating Belagavi and other areas of Karnataka into Maharashtra.

Yediyurappa said Pawar is unnecessarily stoking the border issue, and should stop making such comments. Marathi-speaking people in Karnataka had taken part in the Vishwa Kannada Sammelana in a big way, and the government had set up a corporation for development of the community, he added.

The State government also rejected the demand of pro-Kannada organisations to withdraw its order on constituting the Board. Accusing the government of taking such a decision ahead of

the Belagavi Lok Sabha by-poll, the organizations have threatened to call for a statewide bandh on December 5, if the government fails to withdraw its order. The CM said the government will take stern action if the bandh is called.

Meanwhile, Law Minister JC Madhuswamy told mediapersons after the state cabinet meeting that the Board has been a long-standing demand. The minister also clarified that the government is constituting a Maratha Community

Board and not an 'Authority', as announced earlier by the CM. An Act has to be passed in assembly for constituting an Authority, he added.

Madhuswamy said they have not taken any decision on allocation of funds. "It has not yet been decided," he said. The CM had earlier announced that it would be set up with a grant of Rs 50 crore.

CM responsible for tension: Siddu

Congress Legislature Party chief Siddaramaiah said, "CM Yediyurappa is unnecessarily creating unrest between Kannada and Marathi people by forming the Maratha Development Board. Though there were some skirmishes between them in the border areas, Kannadigas and Marathi-speaking people live in harmony, and by forming the Board, the government is creating tension between them. The CM will be responsible for any law and order issue in the border areas.



CM Yediyurappa is unnecessarily creating unrest between Kannada and Marathi people by forming the Maratha Development Board

Siddaramaiah,
Congress Legislature
Party