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# Council chair sends notice to secy over floor ruckus

## Accuses Her Of Dereliction Of Duty & Neglect

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Legislative council chairman Pratap Chandra Shetty, who has been battling a BJP attempt to oust him, has issued a show-cause notice to house secretary KR Mahalakshmi, asking her to explain the ruckus that unfolded on the floor on Tuesday.

Shetty has sought to know why she allowed deputy council chairman S.L. Dharmegowda to preside over proceedings on Tuesday when he was in his chamber, describing the decision as illegal and irresponsible. The notice was issued on Wednesday and Mahalakshmi was given 48 hours to respond.

### POLITICS & POLICY

After the winter session, the council reconvened for one day on Tuesday. BJP had planned to push through a no-confidence motion against Shetty, a Congress member, with the help of JD(S). Tempers got frayed after Dharmegowda sat in the council chairman's seat and Congress members tried to physically remove him. Congress and BJP members were seen pushing each other and hurling abuses.

Shetty has said in the notice that his seat was occupied while he was locked out. "While the bell was ringing and quorum was not there, the doors were locked before



**HEATED ROW:** There were ugly scenes on Tuesday after deputy chairman took chairman's seat

“While the bell was ringing... the doors were locked before the chairman could enter. Deputy chairman occupied the (chairman's) seat and the secretary went on with the business instead of updating him.

**Pratap Chandra Shetty** | CHAIRMAN, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

the chairman could enter. The deputy chairman occupied the chair, and the secretary, it seemed, went on with the business instead of updating the deputy chairman of what was going on," the notice states.

Shetty entered the house after a struggle and adjourned the house sine die, scuttling BJP's bid to move the no-confidence motion.

After watching television footage of the scenes on the floor, Shetty observed that the secretary, who is the administrative in-charge of the house, facilitated Dharmegowda actions. "Your conduct was illegal, irresponsible and not expected of a legislative employee. Your actions, undertaken without the prior per-

mission of higher authorities, is also a clear case of dereliction of duty and neglect. Why shouldn't action be initiated against you as per the government's civil service rules?" Shetty has said in the notice. He has asked Mahalakshmi to submit a detailed report on Tuesday's events.

BJP is the largest party in the legislative council, but until recently, the combined opposition of Congress and JD(S) had the upper hand in terms of numbers. JD(S) has now joined hands with BJP to oust Shetty.

JD(S) functionaries said that the party was firm on getting its candidate appointed as the new council chairman. BJP has not agreed to this demand yet.

BJP has written to Shetty, demanding action against Congress MLCs who man-handled Dharmegowda and evicted him from the chairman's seat.

Rural development and panchayat raj minister KS Eshwarappa claimed on Friday that Congress was trying to hold on to the council chairperson's post even though it lacked numbers. He told reporters in Hubballi that the no-confidence motion was not included in the council's agenda on Tuesday despite advance notice. "We had clearly said that BJP and JD(S) were united on this issue. As Congress didn't have a majority, Shetty was supposed to tender his resignation," he claimed.

Eshwarappa dared opposition leader Siddaramaiah and state Congress chief DK Shivakumar to prove that BJP and JD(S) lacked numbers in the Upper House. "Else, they should apologise for creating chaos in the council," he added.