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CM Jagan moves to scrap upper House as TDP rejects bills

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Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy has decided to scrap the legislative council, for which he has reportedly told the law department to prepare a draft bill. Jagan has taken the decision to abolish the upper house after TDP rejected the bills passed by the legislative assembly.

The bill is likely to be tabled in the assembly session beginning on Monday. TDP has absolute majority in the 58-member legislative council, and it had rejected bills related to the introduction of English as medium of instruction at government schools in the winter session held in December.

As there is no scope of YSR Congress getting majority in the near future to get the bills passed smoothly, Jagan has decided to abolish the council. The law department has already prepared a draft bill, and sent it to the chief minister for consideration on Sunday evening.

This would be the second time that the AP legislative council is being abolished. It was first abolished in 1985, when TDP had come to power and Congress had majority in the council. Former CM K Rosiah was the leader of the house then, and Congress gave a tough time to the



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TDP government headed by NT Rama Rao. However, the council was restored in 2007, by Jagan's father and then CM, late YS Rajasekhara Reddy, before going for the 2009 general election.

Though YSR Congress has absolute majority in the legislative assembly — 151 of 175 members — it is finding it tough to get bills passed by legislative council. TDP, led by senior politician Yanamala Ramakrishnu, is giving a tough time to the Jaganmohan Reddy government in the council. As Jagan is likely to table important bills, including decentralisation of capital and abolition of APCRDA Act, and there is no possibility of the bills getting the approval in the council, the CM has decided to abolish the council in this session. Besides having majority, the council chairman and vice-chairman posts are also held by TDP members, which is also seen as a reason for Jagan to abolish the house.