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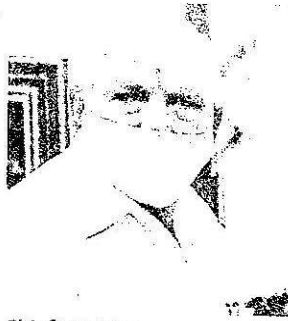
Lokayukta police file closure report in land denotification case

It pertains to Bellandur IT Corridor project when Yediyurappa was Dy. CM

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police have filed a closure report in the Bellandur IT Corridor denotification case in which Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa is an accused. The High Court had recently ordered a trial court-monitored probe into the case.

The case pertains to alleged illegal denotification of eight acres and 10 guntas of land from the IT corridor project when Mr. Yediyurappa was the Deputy Chief Minister. Based on a private complaint in 2013, the court ordered an FIR in 2015, which was being probed by the Lokayukta police. Mr. Yediyurappa had challenged the FIR, a petition that was dismissed by the High Court on December 22, 2020, or-



Chief Minister
B.S. Yediyurappa

dering for a court-monitored probe.

On the first day of hearing of the case at the Lokayukta Special Court after the recent High Court order, the Lokayukta police filed a 27 volume closure report, sources confirmed. The Lokayukta police refused to comment on the same.

Senior advocate K.V. Dhananjay, counsel for complainant Vasudeva Reddy, sought time to file objections over the closure report. The court adjourned the case to February 2.

"The High Court in its December 22 order observed the Lokayukta Police had not investigated the case for years, despite there being no stay order. In less than a month, they have completed the probe and filed a closure report. We will appeal to the court to reject the report and make the accused stand trial," Mr. Dhananjay said. He also added that he would file an application in the court to review the investigation carried out by the agency to arrive at this conclusion.

It can be recalled that

High Court judge Michael Cunha in his judgment had made critical observations about the Lokayukta police in the case. "Though, at this juncture, it cannot be said that the Lokayukta police succumbed to pressure from Mr. Yediyurappa, who holds the position of Chief Minister. However, being an independent and impartial body entrusted with the duty to enquire into the misconduct of public servants objectively, they cannot give rise to an impression in the minds of the public that it is playing into the hands of the political bigwigs," he had said.

Probe into two more denotification cases had recently been reopened against the Chief Minister on the orders of Karnataka High Court.