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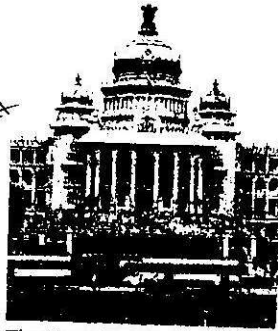
State govt. may seek curtailment of session due to COVID-19 spread

However, Congress wants it to be extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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The State legislature, which is meeting for the monsoon session from Monday, could be curtailed in the light of COVID-19 spread and nearly half a dozen Ministers not attending the session after they tested positive.

While sources in Chief Minister's Office indicated that the government could be seeking a curtailment of the session, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said they would not allow the session to be curtailed. Sources in the CMO, however, said that it would be Speaker's



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decision eventually, and also did not elaborate on the number of days proposed to be curtailed. As of now, the session is scheduled to be held for eight days.

"The Chief Minister called me to convince me on cur-

tailing the session. However, we want extension of the session and we are not in favour of the session to be curtailed," Mr. Shivakumar told reporters here.

Congress sources also said that while the government was seeking cover under COVID-19, it was also under pressure from the ministerial aspirants in the party who may try to embarrass the government during the session. Primarily, the government is under pressure.

The CMO sources said that the Chief Minister had reached out to the Congress, seeking their cooperation for the number of days in the session to be reduced.

"There is nothing wrong with that. While Parliament is in session, the number of

COVID-19 positive cases are only increasing. There is a cue from that experience," the sources said.

To give a miss

CMO sources said that Ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and Food and Civil Supplies Minister Gopalaiyah, and Chief Minister's political secretary S.R. Vishwanath are likely to give a miss to the session owing to COVID-19.

"We are also not sure of how many more will test positive since the legislators and Ministers have undergone tests for the past two days and results are awaited," the sources added.