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Pondy govt in crisis as 2 more MLAs resign a day before floor test

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Puducherry: The Congress government in Puducherry faced a major setback on Sunday, a day ahead of a floor test to prove its majority in the assembly, after one more of its MLAs and another of its ally DMK tendered their resignations. The exits, coming within an hour of each other, plunged the Congress government led by chief minister V Narayanasamy into a crisis, bringing down its strength to 12 in the 30-member house.

The chief minister's parliamentary secretary K Lakshminarayanan and DMK MLA K Venkatesan submitted their resignation letters to the speaker of the legislative assembly V P Sivakozhundhu on Sunday afternoon. Lakshminarayanan said he decided to quit

as he was not given due recognition in the government and the party.

Venkatesan said he could not undertake any development work in the last two years in his constituency as the MLA funds were not released. He said he decided to resign to register his protest and added that he has conveyed his decision to the party high command. Meanwhile, a meeting of the MLAs convened by Narayanasamy on Sunday evening to evolve a strategy to save the government ended without arriving at a consensus. "We held discussions to evolve strategies to face the floor test. We heard the views and suggestions of the MLAs. But we have not arrived at a consensus. We will meet again and take a final decision before the House convenes at 10am on Monday," he said.