

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
PAPER CLIPPINGS

26

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: *Legislative Assembly session*

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: *Deccan Herald* ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: *23/3/24*

# Sex scandal: Book Ramesh for rape, demands Cong

## SIT probing 'conspiracy,' what about victim?: Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS

The sex scandal allegedly involving BJP leader Ramesh Jarkiholi rocked the Assembly on Monday with the Siddaramaiah-led Congress demanding that the former minister be booked for rape, which the government did not readily agree to.

Siddaramaiah, the leader of the Opposition, also demanded an independent inquiry monitored by the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court.

"The government and the Special Investigation Team

(SIT) are focusing only on the 'conspiracy' behind the scandal. But, what about the victim? She stands humiliated in front of the society. Grave injustice has been caused to the victim," Siddaramaiah said.

"She has said that she was used by Ramesh Jarkiholi, for a job that she sought. This means there was no consent, which amounts to rape. Why wasn't Ramesh booked under Section 376 of the IPC," Siddaramaiah asked, blaming the police for failing in their duty by not taking cognisance of the woman's video statement.



Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah makes a point in Legislative Assembly on Monday.

"There are three complaints: One filed by Ramesh through ex-MLA Nagaraj, second by the woman's father

saying she's missing and then by the woman herself," Siddaramaiah said.

"But an FIR has been filed only for Ramesh's complaint."

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, however, defended the ongoing SIT probe.

"As per guidelines, we should first verify the authenticity of the woman's video. That's what we're doing now. Once the video is authenticated, a case will be booked under Section 376 (rape)," Bommai said.

"But there are some contradictions," Bommai explained.

"The woman says she and her parents attempted suicide. But her father's complaint says she's been kidnapped with no mention of any suicide attempt. Also, in her video, she said she was used and that the (sex) video was released. Will Ramesh release his own video

to defame himself?"

Bommai said that the woman was yet to be traced. "She's on the run. She's not coming forward. We're ready to go wherever she is, with a woman police constable, to record her statement and provide protection," he said.

The minister maintained that the government will punish whoever is involved. "We're questioning Ramesh also."

Bommai called out the Congress for not filing a rape case against H Y Meti, who had to resign as a minister in the then Siddaramaiah government under similar circumstances. "What moral right do you have to question us?"

Unhappy with Bommai's reply, the Congress entered the well of the House, saying the SIT was a ploy to hush-up the case.