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Cong stir over sex scandal washes out Assembly proceedings

Opposition demands court-monitored probe

24/3/21

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Assembly proceedings got washed out on Tuesday as the Congress staged a protest in the well of the House demanding a court-monitored probe into the sex scandal, preventing any business from taking place.

The deadlock is likely to continue as the Congress is

firm on its demand and the government is in no mood to relent.

The only business that happened in the first half of the Assembly was a condolence motion dedicated to former minister B D Basavaraj, who died on Monday. Two Bills were passed amid the din without any debate.

"The government isn't lis-

tening to any of our demands. We will not cooperate with the government," Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said, leading his party into the well of the House.

The Congress wants the government to book former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi for rape.

During the day, Congress members displayed CDs and shouted slogans against the government.

Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri's plea for the Question Hour, calling attention notices and Bills to be taken up for discussion went in vain. "The House doesn't belong to just the Opposition. It belongs to

all 224 members and you can't curtail their rights," Kageri told the Congress.

"We're not asking for a judicial probe. Let the Special Investigation Team (SIT) continue, but the probe should be under the supervision of the High Court Chief Justice. Our intent is that the truth should come out," Siddaramaiah said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa lashed out at the Congress over their protest. "I want to ask the Congress, why are they protesting? What else do they want? Ramesh has resigned, we're investigating and the woman isn't traceable," Yediyurappa said. "They have no

other issue, so they're biding time instead of participating in the debate on the budget. I don't understand this," he added.

Speaking to reporters later, Siddaramaiah said they will continue protest till their demands are met. "The woman has stated clearly that she was used. Based on that, an FIR should be filed. It's very clear what the Supreme Court has said in the Nirbhaya case judgement," he said.

"In this case, the SIT has been asked to inquire and submit a report to the government without an FIR. Also, reports are to be given to a court, not to the government," he argued.