

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ
KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

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PAPER CLIPPINGS

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: OTHER State Matter

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Indian Express ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 24/06/2020

Manipur crisis: Four NPP ministers flown to Delhi

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

AS the BJP has been reduced to a minority in Manipur, four MLAs of ally National People's Party (NPP), who withdrew support to the saffron party-led government last week, were quietly flown to Guwahati by Assam Minister and BJP's troubleshooter Himanta Biswa Sarma.

"They (NPP MLAs) have been taken to Guwahati and subsequently, will be taken to Delhi," a minister in the state told this newspaper.

The four NPP MLAs will meet BJP's central leaders and explain what made them to pull out of the government.



NPP's Manipur chief miffed with CM

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The developments came just days after three BJP MLAs resigned from the party and the Assembly and six others — four from NPP, one from All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) and an independent MLA — joined Congress which had prompted the grand old party to stake claim.

Earlier on Tuesday, Sarma and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, who is also the NPP president, held closed door meetings with the NPP and the BJP MLAs.

The NPP's Manipur leadership is also miffed with the CM for his alleged "autocratic" style of functioning. As pressure was being mounted on the

party MLAs to return to the government, the party leadership felt it would be loss of face to do that just days after ditching the government.

Meanwhile, the Congress is suddenly under siege as former chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh was summoned by the CBI. A team of the probe agency reached Imphal on Tuesday. The case against Singh pertains to alleged embezzlement of funds in the Manipur Development Society (MDS).

Apart from him, others named by the CBI in the FIR are former MDS chairmen, former MDS project director, and its administrative officer.