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Kerala Guv to CM: Your duty to keep me informed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

GOVERNOR Arif Mohammed Khan has responded to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's letter, saying he rejected the cabinet's recommendation to convene a special assembly session on Wednesday because the government failed to convey the factors that necessitated it. He also sought to remind the chief minister that it was his duty to keep the governor informed of the government's decisions.

In his letter to the governor on Tuesday, the CM had said that Khan's decision was contrary to the constitutional scheme. In his reply, the governor said the farmers' protest in Delhi was an issue in which the state had no jurisdiction so as to offer any solution. Khan also expressed his displeasure over the contents of the CM's letter to him -which was marked "confidential" -- being released to the media.

The governor said the government had on December 18 recommended convening of the budget session of the assembly on January 8 for which approval was given on Decem-

ber 21. He said, on the same day, the government withdrew its earlier recommendation and sent a fresh proposal to summon an emergency session on December 23.

"Even in the current matter. I did not refuse to accede to your request. I merely raised some questions and hoped that you would respond with full information to satisfy me that some unforeseen things have happened and show what you propose to do to deal with this unexpected situation," the governor wrote in his letter.

Khan said the government did not reply to his questions, but brought in extraneous issues which he had not raised at any stage. "In your response, you did not address the question relating to the nature of emergency which necessitated summoning of an emergency session of the assembly," the governor said.

"You'll agree that as chief minister, it is your constitutional duty to keep the governor fully informed about the decisions of the government and it is my right to be consulted and to counsel the gov-ernment," Khan reminded Pinarayi.