

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ
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'Govt yet to clear ex-MLAs' medical bills'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The BJP government has not cleared medical bills of several former MLAs since 2018, ex-speaker **KB Koliwad** claimed on Monday, adding that the state's troubled finances were behind the delay.

"My own bills are pending. I had submitted 10-11 bills, of which only one has been cleared. When I enquired about the rest, officials in the assembly secretariat said they didn't have adequate funds," Koliwad, a

senior Congress functionary, told reporters on Monday. He said a number of former legislators, whose medical bills have not been settled, had discussed the issue with him.

But assembly secretary MK Vishalakshmi rejected the allegation, saying payments for all "genuine" applications had been made. Pending claims are being scrutinised for authenticity.

But she clarified that there was a delay because the assembly secretariat had been brought under the Khajane-II

system. Under this system, secretariat officials, after verifying claims, submit them to the treasury, which then deposits the amount directly in the beneficiary's account.



"It is a lengthy process due to which there was some delay. However, we have cleared all genuine bills," she said. Koliwad, meanwhile, criticised the delay by

speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri in providing an official car and support staff to leader of opposition Siddaramaiah. "In a democracy, the opposition leader is considered a shadow chief minister. In a way, the opposition's leader post is as important as the CM's. But Siddaramaiah has not been given a vehicle. The file is still in the speaker's chamber," Koliwad claimed.

Siddaramaiah has requested for a new Innova Crysta, but the speaker has asked him to use an old Fortuner.