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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 25/9/2020

Congress MLA Narayan Rao dies of Covid complications

BENGALURU/BIDAR, DH. S

Congress' Basavakalyan legislator B Narayan Rao died due to Covid-19 complications on Thursday. He was 66.

According to a statement from Manipal Hospitals director Dr Manish Rai, Rao was admitted on September 1 with "severe" Covid-19 infection and he passed away at 3.55 pm on Thursday.

"He was critically ill with multi-organ failure on multiple supports, including a ventilator, in the intensive care unit under constant observation by our expert panel of doctors," the statement said.

Born in 1954 in the Basavakalyan village of Bidar, Rao was a MA graduate. Rao was a first-time MLA and known to be loyal to Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah. In the 2018 elections, he defeated Mallikarjun Khuba of the BJP and PGR Sindhia of the



B Narayan Rao

JD(S). In 2019, he was appointed as the chairperson of the Forest Development Corporation.

Condoling his death in the Assembly, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa described Rao as "an excellent orator" and "a dedicated Congress worker."

Siddaramaiah remembered Rao for his commitment to the development of backward classes. "He used to tell me that his sole aim was to enter the Legislative Assembly. He lost twice, but won the third time in 2018. He couldn't fulfill his desire because

his term as a legislator has been cut short," he said.

Agiant killer

Inspired by JP (Jayaprakash Narayan) and D Devaraj Urs, B Narayan Rao took a plunge into active politics. After a stint as Zilla Panchayat member, he unsuccessfully contested the 1985 Assembly elections from Basavakalyan on Janata Party ticket.

Rao, again, tasted defeat in the 2013 Assembly elections contesting on Congress ticket. However, he was third-time lucky, defeating the likes of Mallikarjun Khuba and PGR Sindhia in the 2018 Assembly elections. He was the first non-Lingayat and non-Marathi MLA of Basavakalyan.

Rao had managed to get funds sanctioned for Anubhava Mantap complex in Basavakalyan.

He is survived by his wife Mallamma and sons Gautham and Rahul. The mortal remains of Rao will be laid to rest in Basavakalyan on Friday.