

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Kannataka Legislative Assembly session

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 26/9/20

BJP summons all MLAs, even those with Covid

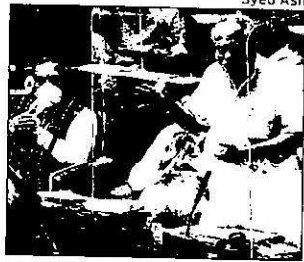
Party Prepares For A Possible Confidence Vote

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
26/9/20

Bengaluru: BJP on Friday issued a whip to all its MLAs, including those who are recovering from Covid-19 or are in quarantine, asking them to attend the assembly on Saturday when a no-confidence motion moved by Congress will be debated. The decision to summon all members was taken during the BJP legislature party meeting in Bengaluru.

CONG MOTION

"We've have requested them (MLAs in quarantine) to come to Bengaluru. If the voting takes place, we will urge the speaker to allow these MLAs to vote in PPE kits," said V Sunil Kumar, BJP's chief whip in the assembly. Seven ministers and 13 BJP legislators have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past few weeks. Friday's meeting covered various strategies to counter the Congress motion, including ensuring it is not



DAY 5: Minister S Suresh Kumar in the legislative council on Friday

taken up for discussion at all on Saturday, the last day of the truncated monsoon session of the assembly.

Chief minister BS Yediyurappa said he was confident of defeating the motion and that JD(S) might not support the Congress bid. "I've no objections to the motion, let them do it. Every six months they move the no confidence motion. It's good for me since I can stay safe for the next six months," he said ahead of a meeting with JD(S) legislature party chief HD Kumaraswamy.

Despite the numbers being on BJP's side, Congress on Thursday moved the no-confidence motion notice against the 14-month-old government, mainly to force a discussion in the assembly on various issues,

including alleged corruption in Covid-related purchases and BDA projects.

In the 225-member assembly, the ruling BJP has 116 members, Congress 67, JD(S) 33, BSP and nominated 1, independents 2, and the speaker (he has a casting vote). Four seats — Sirsi, Basavakalyan, RR Nagar and Maski — are vacant.

Kumaraswamy said Congress didn't consult his party and expressed doubts over the seriousness behind such a move. Asked whether JD(S) had confidence in the government, he said enjoying the confidence of the people was more important. Indicating that JD(S) will not support the motion, Kumaraswamy added the circumstances were not suitable for such an exercise, considering the pandemic, flood damage and financial crisis.

Yediyurappa and Kumaraswamy had a chat in the chief minister's chamber at Vidhana Soudha when the assembly session was underway, triggering another round of speculation about party tie-ups. Kumaraswamy reportedly discussed developmental schemes for the Ramanagara and Channarayana segments, which he and his wife represent.

Borrowing bill passed amid Cong walkout

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A bill that enables the government to relax a borrowing limit, which is tied to the state GDP, and seek Rs 33,000 crore was passed in the assembly on Friday after Congress walked out in protest. The Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill allows the government to raise the limit from 3% to 5% of the state GDP.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah strongly criticised the government's decision to make additional borrowings, above those mentioned in the budget, to offset a revenue shortfall, and suggested it should instead cut committed expenditure by downsizing departments and removing extra posts. He said increasing the limit to 5 per cent was a disastrous move as it would push the state deeper into debt.

"I urge the government to be prudent in terms of expenditure and avoid this extra borrowing otherwise the state will become bankrupt," he told the house. "The problem is that the government has never bothered to check the committed expenditure that goes to unproductive heads." *Full report, toi.in*

Cancel turf club's licence, PAC report tells state govt

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the state legislature on Friday tabled a report recommending that the government cancel the licence of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC). It will be binding on the government to initiate action against the club for allegedly defaulting on rent. The report comes at a time when BTC is preparing to resume races after nearly seven months.

Bill to create 3 varsities shelved after MLAs pan it

The BS Yediyurappa government shelved a bill for formation of three new universities on Friday after legislators from across party lines raised objections, saying the move would put a strain on the state's already stretched finances. Much to the embarrassment of the government, BJP legislators opposed the bill, apart from opposition members. Sixteen other bills were passed in the assembly on Friday.

Farmers protest across state

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Thousands of farmers converged on main highways and roads in Bengaluru and other key cities and towns on Friday, protesting against farm-related bills of the central and state governments. The demonstrations are part of a nationwide stir call against what many organisations say are anti-farmer policies.

Large police teams were deployed at many places to prevent complete blockade of key routes. Hundreds of farmers courted arrest. "Our members blocked major entry points to Bengaluru and other cities to drive home the point that the central government's bills are against the interests of farmers," said Kuruburu Shantakumar, a representative of farmers. Police said traffic was not severely affected.

Many farmers' organisations have called for a state-wide shutdown on September 28 to demand withdrawal of amend-



FARM FURY: A demonstration in Bengaluru

ments made to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act and central bills.

CM's outreach fails to break impasse

Chief minister BS Yediyurappa met farmers' associations and experts in Bengaluru, but the meeting failed to produce a resolution. The representatives urged him to withdraw the amendments, but he defended the measures, saying they were aimed at doubling farmers' income and helping industries.