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A.P. Assembly adopts resolution to abolish Legislative Council

133 members say 'aye'; decision was guided by public interest, says Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Monday adopted a statutory resolution for the abolition of the Legislative Council with 133 members, including the lone Jana Sena MLA, voting for it and none opposing it. The Opposition Telugu Desam Party had on Sunday made it clear that it would boycott the proceedings.

Speaker Thammineni Seetharam declared that the government had moved the resolution as per Article 169 (1) of the Constitution and 133 members out of those 'present and voting' gave their consent for the abolition of the Council. After initially putting the number at 121, it was enhanced to 133 after a proper counting.

Before taking up the division behind closed doors as per procedures, Mr. Seetharam asked Ministers Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose and Mopidevi Venkata Ramana to be seated separately as they were no longer members of the Council.

Public utility

Earlier, replying to the discussion on the resolution, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said the Council had lost its 'public utility' and spending even a single rupee on it from the treasury would be wasteful.



A TV grab of A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing the Assembly at Velagapudi on Monday.

On Council's relevance

STAFF REPORTER VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has cleared the decks for the abolition of the Legislative Council by passing a resolution to that effect in its meeting. The Cabinet resolution was later sent to the Legislative Assembly where a discussion on 'Consequences arising after Bills passed by the Legislative Assembly' under Rule 169 took place.

It was meant for scrapping the Council and officially communicating it to the Central government as a step towards its approval by both Houses of Parliament.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has questioned the relevance of the Council because it is obstructive to the development

and Inclusive Development of All Regions and Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Bills.

These Bills were ratified by the Assembly last week but referred to a select committee by the Upper House amidst stiff opposition by the ruling party MLCs who are in a minority.

Mr. Reddy went to the extent of saying that there was no point in spending a huge sum (₹60 crore per year) on the Council if it comes in the way of important government business in the Legislature. He also mentioned in the Assembly that only six States have Legislative Councils and he was against allowing the Legislative Council of A.P. to function with a political bias.

'Showing his true colours'

STAFF REPORTER GUNTUR

Telugu Desam Party leaders on Monday came down on A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for his decision to dissolve the Legislative Council.

Addressing a media conference at the party office soon after Mr. Reddy moved a resolution to this effect in the Assembly, senior party leader and former Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said that Mr. Reddy should seek a fresh mandate over his governance.

Mr. Reddy was trying to undo the legacy of former CM and his father Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy who had revived the Council, the TDP leader said, adding the unilateral action showed the former's immaturity.

"This action will be regretted by the CM as he is trying to suppress the voice of the Opposition. The Council consists of learned men and women, with experience in public life. By dissolving the Council, the CM is showing his true colours", said Mr. Atchannaidu.