

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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JD(S) set to vote against anti-cow slaughter bill; CM looks for support

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The JD(S) will vote against the anti-cow slaughter bill in the legislative council at a crucial time when the BJP government has to get approval for it in the legislature session starting Thursday.

The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Prevention of Cattle Bill, 2020, was passed in the legislative assembly, where the ruling party has an absolute majority, during the winter

POLITICS & POLICE

session amid a walkout by Congress and JD(S). However, the government couldn't introduce the bill in the council due to the fracas over BJP's plan to move a no-confidence motion against chairman K Pratap Chandra Shetty.

It enacted an ordinance to enforce provisions of the bill. The government must get the council's approval in the session scheduled till February 5, without which the ordinance will lapse. The hitch, however, is that BJP lacks a majority in the upper house and has to bank on the JD(S). "We'll vote against the bill since it is anti-farmer. We won't stage a walkout as it'll help the government pass the bill. We'll stay in the house and defeat the bill," said JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy. The JD(S) has been friendly

to the BJP in recent times. It backed the government over the land reforms bill and extended support over the no-confidence motion against the council chairman.

"We know the rules, so we'll definitely table the bill this session," said animal husbandry minister Prabhu Chauhan. He said senior BJP leaders would reach out to the JD(S) and seek its support. JD(S) functionaries said it would be tough, especially because of Deve Gowda's hard stance against the bill.

This scenario will also test the floor coordination skills of home minister Basavaraj Bommai, who has just taken over the parliamentary affairs portfolio from JC Madhuswamy.

"The high command is keenly watching how Bommai manages the challenges which include the anti-cow slaughter bill, election of deputy chairman and no-confidence motion against the chairman," said a BJP MLC. There's a slim possibility of BJP deferring the bill and tabling it in the budget session in March. "There's a way out in the rules. Since the ordinance will expire only after 45 days from the start of the present session, the government may wait for the budget session to move the bill. Otherwise, the ordinance has to be freshly promulgated," said an official of the law & parliamentary affairs department.

Horatti to become council chairman with BJP backing

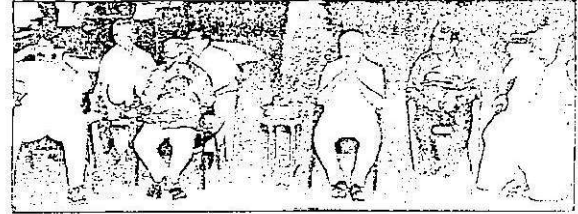
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The decks have been cleared for JD(S) MLC Basavaraj Horatti to become chairman of the legislative council with BJP supporting his candidacy.

The ruling party on Wednesday decided to field its MLC MK Pranesh for deputy chairman in the election slated for Friday. The post fell vacant following the death of SL Dharme Gowda of JD(S).

The deal is that JD(S) would support BJP in the elections for deputy chairman and the ruling party would back the HD Deve Gowda-led party for the chairman's post with Horatti being the front runner. The mutual support is required since no party enjoys a majority in the 75-member council.

The chairman's post is expected to fall vacant as BJP has issued a fresh notice of no-confidence motion against chairman K Pratapchandra Shetty (Congress). "Pranesh was finalised as the candidate," said BJP MLC Lahar Singh Siroya after a meeting convened by chief minister BS



The chief minister holds a meeting with BJP MLCs on Wednesday

Yediyurappa with BJP MLCs.

"I'm happy the BJP has decided to support me for council chairman," said Horatti after meeting Yediyurappa on Wednesday. The notice for the no-confidence motion will come up for consideration in February, following which Shet-

JUST IN TODAY

ty is expected to either tender his resignation or fix a date for voting on the motion. The session will start with the governor's address to the joint sitting on Thursday.

The session scheduled till February 5 is expected to be stormy with opposition parties getting ready to corner the government on contentious issues including illegal quarry-

ing, farm laws and the government's failure to grant adequate relief to flood victims. The government is expected to table the anti-cow slaughter bill in the council, which both Congress and JD(S) oppose.

The council could also see high drama over the interim report submitted by the special house committee on the ruckus in the house on December 15. It reportedly indicts ministers JC Madhuswamy and deputy CM CN Ashwath Narayan. Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri said 11 bills have been submitted for discussion. "All arrangements have been made keeping Covid-19 safety norms in mind," said Kageri, adding that the budget session is expected to be held in March first week.