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Cloud seeding ops to begin next month

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The government will launch cloud seeding operations in the second week of July, **Krishna Byregowda**, rural development and panchayat raj minister, told reporters on Friday. The cabinet had approved the plan last month and had set aside Rs 91 crore for the two-year project.



"Preparations for cloud seeding operations are on and the company which bagged the contract is in the process of importing radar," Byregowda said. "In all likelihood, cloud seeding will begin from the second week of July."

Byregowda revealed the operation will be based out of Mysuru and Hubballi airports. "We had earlier decided on making Bengaluru the base, but since there is far more air traffic in the city, securing permission was an issue. So we decided to shift operations to Mysuru,"

Byregowda said.

The government also decided to release Rs 546 crore for its crop insurance scheme for the kharif and rabi seasons. "We have divided the state into 10 clusters for convenience and have appointed insurance agencies for each of these clusters," Byregowda said.

Monsoon session from July 12

The monsoon session of the state legislature will be held from July 12 to 26, the cabinet which met here on Friday, decided. The 11-day session is likely to be a stormy one as the opposition BJP is expected to corner the government on issues like drought, drinking water problems, delay in waiving of farm loans and lack of coordination between the coalition partners.

BS Yeddyurappa, opposition leader in the assembly and state BJP president, who toured the state to assess the impact of drought, has already made it clear that his party will highlight the failures of the Kumaraswamy government during the session.