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Congress leader Harish Rawat (c) is detained during a protest in Dehradun to demand the resignation of Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat | PTI

U'khand CM not to face CBI probe in graft case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Dehradun

THE Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court order which had ordered a CBI probe against CM Trivendra Singh Rawat to investigate an alleged bribery case involving Rawat before he became the state head.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, who appeared for Rawat, told the court that the order has to be stayed as it was passed without hearing Rawat and there was no prayer for the CBI probe in the petition being considered.

The top law officer contended that the order had destabi-

lised the government as the Opposition were raising demands for the CM's resignation. "An elected government cannot be unsettled like this. The question is can a suo motu order be passed without hearing the party."

The top court stayed the operative portion of the October 27 HC order directing the CBI probe and asked the parties to file response in four weeks.

"The Congress must apologise to the CM as well as people of the state for its unsolicited comments. It has blackened its face in an attempt to defame the BJP," said Bansidhar Bhagat, BJP state president.