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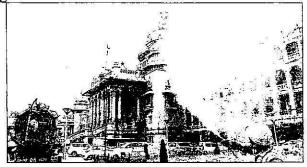
All legislators, officials may be tested before assembly session

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: All legislators, bureaucrats and support staff scheduled to attend the monsoon session of the assembly in September are likely to be repeatedly tested for Covid-19 during the 10-day proceedings.

According to government officials, speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri is considering putting in place a health-safety protocol on the lines of the plans drawn up for Parliament. All Parliament members and staff will be tested 72 hours before the scheduled session.

"The Karnataka assembly speaker is studying the Parliament model and the plans drawn up by the legislatures of other states. Recently, Rajasthan held a session," said a government official. In Karnataka, 41 legislators have tested positive for Covid-19 to date. Chief minister BS Yedi-



HOUSE SAFETY: The speaker is studying health-safety protocols of Parliament and legislatures of other states, say officials

222 MLAs, 71 MLCs, bureaucrats, support staff and mediapersons could be tested every three days during the 10-day session

yurappa and opposition leader Siddaramaiah contracted the infection, but have made full recovery. The legislature section of the government is reportedly waiting for summons to be issued for the monsoon session, signed and authorised by Governor Vajubhai R Vala, before finalising health-safety measures. If a testing protocol is introduced, all 293 legislators (222 MLAs and 71 MLCs), their personal assistants, bureaucrats from all departments, support staff and media representatives will be tested every three days.