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Cong MLAs meet gov over Yatnal remarks, end protest

Urge Him To Get Speaker To Act

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

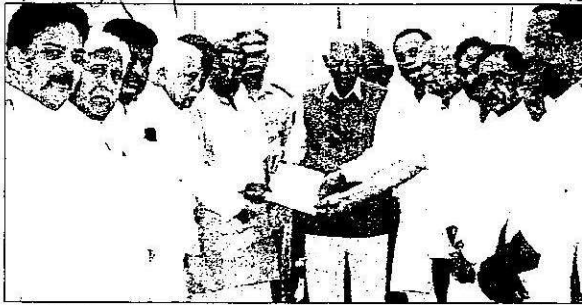
Bengaluru: The logjam in the assembly over BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal's remarks against freedom fighter HS Doreswamy ended on Wednesday as the opposition Congress withdrew its two-day protest after a party delegation met governor Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala.

The Congressmen, led by opposition leader Siddaramaiah, urged the governor to direct speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri to expel Yatnal from the assembly, claiming

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the former Union minister's remarks brought disrepute to the freedom struggle.

Yatnal had called Doreswamy a fake freedom fighter and an agent of Pakistan. "Being the head of the legislature, the governor has the power to send a message to the speaker under Article 175 of the Constitution. We have requested him to invoke his power and



SEEKING INTERVENTION: A Congress contingent led by opposition leader Siddaramaiah met governor Vajubhai Vala on Wednesday

make the speaker act against Yatnal. He (governor) has responded positively to our request," said Siddaramaiah.

The Congress MLAs, who staged a protest in the assembly seeking a debate on Yatnal's remarks, decided to meet the governor after Kageri rejected their demand for the debate as well as action against the Vijayapura MLA.

"For the state's good, we have decided to participate in the house proceedings," added Siddaramaiah.

Since the budget session began on Monday, Congress and JD(S) were on a protest seeking an apology from Yatnal. While the opposition wanted the speaker to

invoke his residual powers under Rule 363 of rules of procedures of legislative assembly and initiate action against the MLA, the speaker and ruling party rejected the demand stating nod can't be granted without giving a prior notice to the speaker to raise a particular subject.

When Congress gave a notice on Tuesday, the speaker rejected it stating he saw no reason to allow discussion under Rule 363. Congress MLAs continued their dharna, while JD(S) MLAs returned to their seats. The speaker had initiated the Constitution debate on Tuesday even as Congress MLAs were in the well of the house.