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# Speaker likely to accept MLAs' resignation

Congress is said to be gearing up for byelections in Vijayanagar and Gokak constituencies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Legislative Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar is likely to accept the resignation of B.S. Anand Singh and Ramesh Jarkiholi, who have quit from their membership to the Lower House.

Sources in the party said the Congress wanted to teach a "fitting lesson" to both the former Ministers by accepting their resignation. The Congress is appa-

rently gearing itself up for the byelections in Vijayanagar and Gokak constituencies.

KPCC working president Eshwar Khandre, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, and Health and Family Welfare Minister Shivananda Patil on Thursday called on the Speaker and reportedly asked him to accept the resignation if both the MLAs have cited valid reasons. A few days ago, top leaders of the Congress held a meeting on this

issue. Sources said that in case the resignations are accepted, the party will press for byelections in the two segments. The party will field Santosh Lad, former Minister, from Vijayanagar in Ballari district, and Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi's brother Lakhman Jarkiholi from Gokak in Belagavi district.

Mr. Ramesh Jarkiholi, who was dropped from the Cabinet in December last, had become a difficult issue to deal with for

the party since he had been mobilising MLAs against the coalition government.

His brother and Minister Satish Jarkiholi has already dropped enough indications on fielding Mr. Lakhman from Gokak if Mr. Ramesh's resignation is accepted.

In March last, when Umesh Jadhav, MP, resigned from the Assembly, the Speaker accepted his resignation after a few days leading to the byelections.