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Cops say Kallahalli can't withdraw complaint now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Cubbon Park police on Monday made it clear that they cannot allow activist Dinesh Kallahalli to withdraw his complaint against then water resources minister Ramesh Jarkiholi through an advocate and that the inquiry must continue. Kallahalli had accused Jarkiholi of sexually exploiting a woman in return for a government job.

On March 2, Kallahalli had petitioned police, but on Sunday his advocate Kumar Patil presented a five-page application, wherein the com-

SEX CD COMPLAINT

plainant said he was disappointed by the statements of some politicians and treating the victim and her messenger as criminals.

Police said Kallahalli must appear in person and discuss the issue with them. "Withdrawing the petition in such a serious matter is not a child's play. We have to continue with the probe and Kallahalli must cooperate with us," an officer said.

Govt defends 6 mins moving court

The state government on Monday defended its six ministers going to the court seeking an injunction on any defamatory CDs which may be released in the public domain.

At the post-budget press conference attended by chief minister BS Yediyurappa and his cabinet colleagues, the government reiterated that there is a "political conspiracy" to defame the ministers and hence, they had sought judicial remedy.

"The ministers from our government have gone to the court not fearing the repercussions but because of the political vendetta which is being suspected behind these CD releases. It is their right

and they have exercised it," said law and parliamentary affairs minister Basavaraj Bommai. The government has denied the reports that the BJP was embarrassed by the move of the six ministers even as Union minister DV Sadananda Gowda had suggested it might project the party in a poor light. "If Sadananda Gowda has said so, then he will be the best person to respond," said Bommai.

The CM said the government is open to a debate on the matter and the opposition is free to give suggestions. "We'll then take the decision on the action to be initiated," he said.

Meanwhile, senior officers said they have asked activist Rajashekhhar Mulali to appear before them. Mulali had in a presser last week claimed that there were similar sex CDs of 19 other politicians. However, Mulali did not turn up.

Mulali told TOI that he

has sought time to appear before police. "Police seem to be under pressure. I'm contesting the elections of the Kannada Sahitya Parishath as the state president and travelling across the state for campaigning. I'll appear for questioning after 10 days," he said.