

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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8 resignation letters not in order, says Speaker

MLAs wanting to quit can send them again: Ramesh Kumar

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The political crisis in Karnataka is likely to spill over into the legislature session scheduled to start on Friday, with Speaker K. Ramesh Kumar stating on Tuesday that the resignation letters of only five of the 13 legislators from the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) were in order.

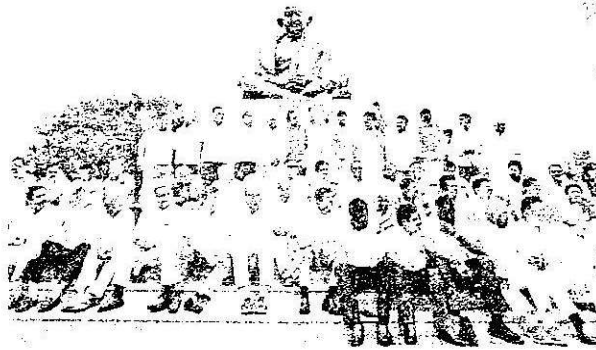
"These five [letters] are [those] of Anand Singh, Narayana Gowda, Prathapgouda Patil, Gopalaih and Ramalinga Reddy," he said.

"Since the other resignation letters were not in the prescribed format, we have sent them a reminder letter... if you wish, you can submit your resignations properly," he added.

These eight legislators, many of whom are not in Bengaluru, are expected to return on Wednesday to re-tender their resignations in the right format.

Baig also quits

Even as the Speaker ruled on the resignations tendered by the MLAs of the ruling coalition, veteran politician and suspended Congress legislator R. Roshan Baig submitted his resignation, taking the total to 14 (three JD(S), 11



United front: Congress MLAs staging a protest in front of the Gandhi statue in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Congress and two Independents).

"Despite the [Assembly] session starting on Friday, I have asked Narayana Gowda, Prathapgouda Patil and Anand Singh to come for a personal hearing, while Gopalaih and Ramalinga Reddy have been asked to appear on July 15 [Monday]," said the Speaker.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar said Mr. Baig's resignation was being examined.

The Speaker said he would hold a public hearing in the light of complaints from the public against the resignations.

(With inputs from PTI)

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Protests disrupt Parliament

The Rajya Sabha witnessed its first adjournment on Tuesday, the inaugural session of the second term of the Narendra Modi government, over the Karnataka crisis. The issue rocked the Lok Sabha too, with Congress members walking out. Rahul Gandhi raised slogans against the BJP. DMK members also walked out. Protests by members of the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the CPI and the CPI(M) erupted as soon as the Rajya Sabha reconvened at 2 p.m. following two adjournments. ► PAGE 10

8 letters not in order, says Karnataka Speaker

The Speaker said he would go by the book and consult seniors about the developments.

Every step I take will become history, so I can't be committing a mistake. Future generations should not look at me like an accused," Mr. Kumar added.

Asked whether the resignations submitted to his office were acceptable, Mr. Kumar earlier hinted that the MLAs might have to personally hand them over, saying "if everything can happen through postal correspondence, I am not required at all".

The Speaker's decision could prove a reprieve for the beleaguered coalition partners - Congress and JD (S) - who have stepped up efforts to salvage the government by seeking disqualification of "rebel" legislators.

Soon after the Congress Legislature Party meeting - which 20 legislators did not

attend - earlier in the day, a delegation led by CLP leader Siddaramaiah and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu the speaker seeking the disqualification of 12 "rebel" legislators, excluding seven-time MLA Ramalinga Reddy.

The party also resurrected an old disqualification case pending since February against Ramesh Jarkihalli, Mahesh Kumathalli and B. Nagendra against for violating a party whip.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar said he would restart the disqualification hearing from July 11 (Thursday) and has asked the Congress to provide evidence against the three.

The opposition BJP is set to meet Governor Vajubhai Vala on Wednesday to seek his intervention to end the political crisis. Meanwhile, the Congress plans to continue its protest against the BJP in Bengaluru. Veteran party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad will join the protest.