

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪುನುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

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Governor

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Governor asks CM to prove majority by 1.30 p.m. today

Govt.'s fall appears imminent with setting of deadline; rebels to skip session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In a shock to the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka, Governor Vajubhai Vala has directed Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy to prove his majority by 1.30 p.m. on the floor of the Assembly on Friday.

With the rebel MLAs resolute in their stand that they will not attend the session, the fall of the 13-month-old government appears imminent.

The Governor's direction came after the House adjourned earlier on Thursday amid a heated debate without a vote on the confidence motion moved by the Chief Minister. This was despite the Governor sending a message to Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar, expressing a desire that the House complete the process by the end of the day.

The ruling party leaders, who had argued that the Governor's message was an infringement on their rights, also opposed the deadline he set for the Chief Minister. However, the Opposition BJP, which had petitioned the Governor against the "delay" in



Locked in talks: Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, Deputy CM G. Parameshwara and Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the Assembly in Bengaluru on Thursday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

putting the confidence motion to vote, welcomed his directive.

Later in the night the entire BJP legislature party, led by Leader of the Opposition B.S. Yeddyurappa slept in the Assembly, protesting the delay in the confidence motion being put to vote. Mr. Yeddyurappa called it 'diversionary tactics' to prolong the trust vote.

"It was clear the treasury benches had only 98 MLAs on their side and the Opposition 105 today. The Chief Minister should have re-

signed and walked out," Mr. Yeddyurappa said.

"We were not opposed to a debate on the confidence motion. But it was not debated at all. I appealed to the Speaker to complete the debate even by midnight and put it to vote. Even the Governor's directions were ignored," he said.

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NEED TIME TO CLARIFY ISSUES

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Legal recourse?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The coalition partners Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) may approach the Supreme Court on Friday questioning the Governor's direction to the Chief Minister. JD(S) party supremo, sources said, has sought legal advice on the issue.

Congress is also contemplating moving Supreme Court challenging its interim order that has allowed 15 Congress and JD(S) rebel MLAs the freedom to participate or not participate in confidence motion proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. The Congress may file a petition before the apex court on Friday seeking a review on the issue of a party's right to issue a whip, sources said.

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CM asked to prove majority by 1.30 p.m.

In his letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Vala said that over the past weeks 15 MLAs had submitted their resignation from the House and two Independent MLAs, too, had given letters withdrawing their support to the government, which "*prima facie* indicate that you have lost majority in the House."

The Governor said he had not intervened in the matter earlier "having regard to the fact that the House was called and trust vote was moved."

He pointed out that "proceedings of the House on July 18 were stalled and consequently adjourned without reaching any finality" and this "cannot go on in a de-

mocratic set-up governed by the Constitution of India. He added that the House was adjourned though he had sent a message to the Speaker.

"Under these circumstances, I require you to prove your majority on the floor of the House on or before 1:30 p.m. tomorrow [Friday]."

High drama

Meanwhile, high drama was witnessed with one Independent Congress MLA Shrimant Til (Kagawad) absenting himself from proceedings by sending a letter and a note to the Speaker, showing he had admitted to a government hospital in Mumbai.