

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
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## Govt amendment relaxes land norms for ailing industries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Amid a walkout by the opposition, the ruling BJP passed an amendment to Karnataka Land Reforms Act allowing private industries on the verge of collapse to sell land to another buyer or company.

Opposition parties claimed the amendment was anti-farmer, saying the land purchased from ryots will now be used for making profits with nefarious intentions.

Introducing the bill, revenue minister R Ashoka and law minister JC Madhuswamy said the amendment was being brought to allow industries, under Section 109 of the Act, to sell the land only after a period of seven years. It can be sold only for the purpose for which permission was initially obtained. "We have seen industrialists who have made huge investments but have committed suicide and some who have fled

### SHIVAKUMAR DIFFERS FROM PARTY LINE

PCC president DK Shivakumar ruffled some feathers in the Congress Legislature Party after he moved a member's amendment to KLRA Act. He was seen telling opposition leader Siddaramaiah to move an amendment. However, Siddaramaiah differed with his party colleague and asked him to withdraw it. Later, when speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri called upon Shivakumar to explain his proposed amendment to the bill, the Kanakapura MLA said: "I understand the problem of sections 109 and 79 (a) and (b) that make way for underhand dealings to deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners and tahsildars... However, considering my party line, I would not like to speak further on the issue."

the country after being unable to repay loans," said Ashoka, justifying the amendment.

The bill comes around the same time when the family of Cafe Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha decided to sell 10,000 acres of plantations and other assets to repay lenders. Under the original Act, industrialists are allowed to sell 40 units or 216 acres of land if the company is under distress.

Opposition leaders, including former industries minister

RV Deshpande, contended that blanket authorisation would result in the real estate mafia entering the business and fake industrialists trying to make gains. "While a company would have bought 100 acres of land to set up an industry, it may use only 20 acres. However, during distress, he/she will seek nod to sell all 100 acres," said Deshpande.

However, the government said checks and balances would be in place.