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# BSY rebukes minister for abusing lady farmer

## The incident occurred during Madhuswamy's visit to Kolar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday publicly chided Law Minister J C Madhuswamy for yelling at a woman farmer in Kolar, an incident that attracted widespread criticism. The incident occurred on Wednesday, when Madhuswamy, who is also the minor irrigation minister, was inspecting the Koramangala-Challaghatta (KC) Valley project, under which Bengaluru's sewage is treated and pumped into lakes in Kolar.



During his visit, farmer Nalini Gowda questioned Madhuswamy on the encroachment of the 1,022-acre S Agrahara lake. At one point, Madhuswamy lost his cool and yelled, "Aye! Shut your mouth, rascal," and asked the police to take her away. Before this, Madhuswamy told her, "Make a request. I'm a very bad man. You can only air your grievance. Don't command us." A video of this exchange was aired by news channels. "What (Madhuswamy) said is not right. I have warned him. None can forgive such an explicit manner of talking to a

woman. That too, a minister behaving like that doesn't bode well. I will talk to that woman also and I'll ensure this doesn't happen again," Yediyurappa told reporters.

The incident came as an opportunity for the Opposition Congress, which is already attacking the Yediyurappa administration on the Covid-19 crisis.

Criticising Madhuswamy's behaviour, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah demanded an apology and asked Yediyurappa to drop him from the Cabinet.

On his part, Madhuswamy said he felt intimidated and so the incident happened. "I apologise. Maybe, I shouldn't have said that," he said.

"I'll even step down if my leaders ask, but at the same time, as someone with self-respect, I won't surrender to anyone. People should realise that we go to their villages to listen to their problems," the minister said.

"If they start abusing us publicly, how can we work? We heard the woman out and then told her that we know our responsibility. We asked her to close the issue. She didn't stop and I got tempted (sic)."

## JCM apologises for 'insulting' woman farmer activist

Law and District In-charge Minister J C Madhuswamy has unconditionally apologised for having 'insulted' a woman farmer activist by calling her a 'rascal', here in Tumakuru recently. "I should not have used the word rascal to retort to the woman's allegations. I apologise to her



Madhuswamy

and everybody else who has been hurt by this incident," the minister said.

Speaking to reporters, Madhuswamy said he

too has self-respect and is not interested in being blamed by people who don't matter. "The lady also should reflect on her behaviour that day. Only after I scolded her she began calling me a brother," he claimed.

The minister also said that Siddaramaiah, who has demanded his resignation is not a chief minister now. "I will resign if my party seniors want me too," he added.

## Rajya Raitha Sangha & Hasiru Sene condemns minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene has condemned Law Minister J C Madhuswamy for his comment on a woman activist.

"What Madhuswamy said was not a slip of tongue, for it to be overlooked with an apology. He knew what he was talking. This is not the first time that he has exhibited such behaviour. Coming from grassroots activism background himself, it is unfortunate that the minister spoke in such a manner towards a fellow activist," Rai-

tha Sangha senior leader K T Gangadhar said.

Speaking about how she handled the situation in a composed manner, Nalini Gowda told DH that she drew strength from the fact that she had a specific issue to convey despite feeling humiliated by the minister's reaction.

"I had my facts in place and I wanted to convey a specific problem affecting the region. I was not speaking about my personal issue," Nalini Gowda said.