

Speaker

reserves verdict
on Jadhav's
disqualification

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Legislative Assembly Speaker K.R Ramesh Kumar on Monday heard the case pertaining to the resignation and disqualification of Umesh Jadhav, who quit the Congress and tendered resignation to the membership of the Legislative Assembly three weeks ago, to join the BJP.

After hearing the arguments of lawyers of both the Congress and Dr. Jadhav, and views of citizens of Chincholi constituency, the Speaker reserved his judgement on the matter saying he would take a decision after consultations with legal experts.

The BJP has fielded Dr. Jadhav from the Kalaburagi Lok Sabha constituency to contest against Congress leader in the Lok Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge.

The Congress has petitioned the Speaker seeking disqualification of Dr. Jadhav under the Anti-Defection Law, claiming that he violated the party's whip by not attending the Congress Legislature Party meeting and allegedly indulging in anti-party activities.

Congress' lawyer Shashikiran Shetty argued before the Speaker that Dr. Jadhav had joined the BJP before accepting the resignation, which was contrary to the Anti-Defection Law and hence his resignation should not be accepted.

Dr. Jadhav's lawyer, Sandeep Patil, argued that his client quit the Congress on March 4 and joined the BJP on March 6 and he had not violated the Anti-Defection Law.

During the hearing of the case, voters of Chincholi constituency alleged that Dr. Jadhav had not visited the constituency for the last six months and he had insulted the voters by shifting to another party.