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# Speaker disqualifies 14 more MLAs before trust vote

Rebels camping in Maharashtra say they will approach the Supreme Court

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Ahead of the trust vote to be moved by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday. Karnataka Assembly Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar disqualified 14 rebel MLAs on Sunday, taking the total number of disqualified MLAs to 17 in the last four days.

Now, the effective strength of the 225-member House stands at 208 – which gives an edge to the BJP (105 ÷ 1 Independent) that has a numerical strength of 106 members.

#### Abstained from session

At a press conference, Mr. Ramesh Kumar announced the disqualification of 11 Congress rebels and 3 Janata Dal (Secular) legislators — all of

House of cards

Of the 225 MLAs in the Karnataka Assembly, 17 were disqualified so far, bringing down the simple majority mark to 105

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whom abstained from the session during which former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy lost the trust vote – with immediate effect and till the end of the term of the 15th Assembly.

Their disqualification, he said, is based on four petitions – three by the Congress

and one by the JD(S) – filed before him. The disqualified legislators, camping in a resort in Maharashtra, announced that they would move the Supreme Court.

Acting on two petitions filed by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao, the Speaker disqualified Prathapgouda Patil (Maski), B.C. Patil (Hirekerur), A. Shivaram Hebbar (Yellapur), S.T. Somashekar (Yeshwanthpur), B.A. Basavaraj (K.R. Puram), B.S. Anand Singh (Vijayanagara, Ballari), R. Roshan Baig (Shivajinagar), Muniratna (Rajarajeshwari Nagar) and N. Nagaraju (Hosakote).

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# Speaker disqualifies 14 more rebel MLAs

Congress's legislator representing Kagwad Shrimanth Balasaheb Patil, who in filmy style sneaked out of the resort where the Congress had kept its flock together, has also been disqualified based on another petition.

On another petition filed by fermer Chief Minister Kumaraswamy on behalf of the JD(S), the Speaker disqualified former JD(S) president A.H. Vishwanath (Hunsur), K.C. Narayan Gowda (K.R. Pete) and K. Gopalaiah (Mahalakshmi Layout).

Like the disqualification of three legislators on Thursday night, the 14 disqualifications have been effected based on paragraph 2 (1A) of the tenth schedule of the Constitution read with article 191 (2).

The Speaker cited previous cases, including Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu's judgment in respect of Janata Dal(U) leader Sharad Yadav and the Tamil Nadu Speaker's related to the disqualification of 18 AIADMK legislators. "Monday the House is meeting to tackle



H. D. Kumaraswamy

two important issues – confidence motion being moved by Mr. Yediyurappa, and discussion and voting of the Appropriation Bill. Therefore pronouncement of order on resignation/disqualification had to be done today. There may not be time on Monday," said Mr. Ramesh Kumar, justifying his decision to order disqualification on Sunday though it's a public holiday.

He pointed out that due to the urgency, the Speaker's Secretariat and Assembly Secretariat had to work on weekend.

He said his office had received another disqualification petition by the BSP against its lone legislator N. Mahesh.