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30 bills in 10 days could lead to stormy monsoon session

Govt Trying To Scuttle Debate: Cong

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Bengaluru: As the state legislature readies to meet for the monsoon session, the 10-day proceedings are likely to be chaotic and packed with action. Reason: The BJP government is set to table around 30 bills for consideration of the assembly and the council during this brief period.

POLITICS & POLICY

On Tuesday, the Karnataka legislature issued summons for conduct of the session from September 21 to September 30.

With the initial days set to see a volley of questions from the opposition on alleged "mismanagement" of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Bengaluru riots and the flood situation in Kodagu and North Karnataka, a considerable number of legislations may be passed without debate.



THE SESSION WILL HAVE COVID PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

On August 28, at the all-party chief whips' meeting called by the government and speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri, the same concerns were raised by Congress.

Opposition chief whip Ajay Dharam Singh said the Congress was informed that 28 bills would be tabled at the 10-day session. "Now, as per protocol, the government will have to adjourn Day 1 on account of the demise of sitting Sira MLA B Satyanarayana. Then follows the weekend, which effectively means the actual number of days when the session will meet will be down to seven. We cannot have so many bills tabled and also have discussions on the other obvious issues plaguing the state," argued Singh.

claiming the government is planning to scuttle most debates and get the bills passed amid chaos. Singh said the party and opposition leader Siddaramaiah conveyed the same through him to the speaker at the meeting.

According to government sources, there is a possibility that Karnataka may follow the Parliament and conduct sessions on Saturday (September 26) and Sunday (September 27) to allow more time for deliberations over the bills.

However, according to law minister JC Madhuswamy, the government is tabling 30 bills of which 18 to 20 are ordinances and most of them don't require deliberations.

"While most bills are rela-

“ We do realise the importance of these bills that need to be passed. However, with the Covid-19 pandemic, we will have to rationalise the time for each debate. I will be speaking about time allocation for each of the 28-30 bills at the business advisory committee of the assembly, which will include leaders of both ruling and opposition parties

Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri | SPEAKER

ted to minor issues not requiring extensive deliberations, there are four or five which will certainly be discussed and debated upon, including the APMC Amendment Act, amendments to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, labour reforms, etc. In fact, a few ordinances are those which were approved by the previous Congress and coalition governments. So, much time won't be needed to discuss all the bills," he said.

The Congress has formed internal teams to tackle each of these bills and also focus on the general debate on Covid-19, riots, floods and relief measures for marginalised communities affected by the lockdown.