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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Home - Minister

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Indian Express ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 2/3/2021

Sleaze CD of Jarkiholi raises political storm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru/Belagavi

A day before the cabinet meeting and two days before the start of the budget session, a CD gate has come to haunt the State Government. On Monday a compact disc containing sleazy content allegedly involving Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and a young woman, who

was seeking a government job, came out in the open.

In a remarkable similarity to former Congress minister H Y Modi's case, who too was caught with a woman and had to resign in 2016, this CD too has explicit material and is said to have been clandestinely shot inside a hotel room in Cubbon Park police limits. Ramesh Jarkiholi is allegedly seen with a woman in a compromising position in multiple audio and video clips.

An RTI activist, Dinesh Kallahalli, on Tuesday came to Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant's office seeking protection for the woman, who is yet to be identified. Asking the police to conduct an inquiry, he told Pant that the minister took undue advantage of the woman, who had gone seeking a government job. She had been exploited by Jarkiholi a number of times, he claimed.

The video has been recorded by the victim. Dinesh Kallahalli said that she approached him for help as she faced a life threat, considering that Jarkiholi is an influential and powerful person. She handed over the CD to Kallahalli and told him that she and her family cannot come out in the open because of the explicit content in the CD.

It's a honey-trap, attempt to unseat Jarkiholi, say friends

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THE videos sent shockwaves in Jarkiholi's Gokak constituency from where he has won six elections in a row. Terming it a honey-trap, his friends said that it is an attempt to unseat him from the minister's post.

KFCC president Satish Jarkiholi, who is Ramesh's brother, was not available for comment on the CD row. Present DyCM Laxman Savadi, C C Patil and Krishna Paleman, who were ministers in the BJP government then, had to resign for viewing pornographic content inside the Assembly in 2012. Another BJP minister Hartal Halappa resigned after a CD surfaced in 2010.

Soon after the video clips went viral, the power supply was cut in Gokak taluk for some time, allegedly to prevent people from watching them on TV channels. Ramesh Jarkiholi's phone was switched off and state BJP president Nalinkumar Kateel did not respond to repeated phone calls from TNIE to seek his reaction.

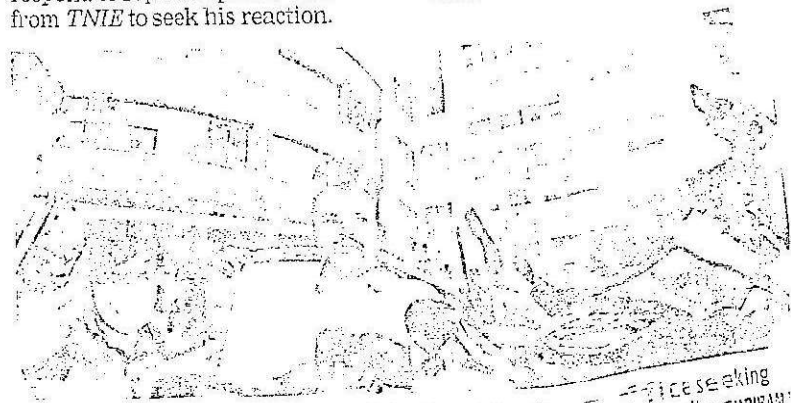
Received petition regarding incident, says DCP

M N Anuchet, DCP (Central) said, "We have received a petition regarding the alleged incident related to the minister. We first need to identify the victim and ascertain who she is and then record her statement." Soon after Kallahalli approached the city police over the scandal, the minister has been provided police security and his statement has been recorded, police sources said.



The minister took undue advantage of the woman, who had gone seeking a government job. She had been exploited by Jarkiholi a number of times.

RTI activist Dinesh Kallahalli to Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant



Activist Dinesh Kallahalli at the Bengaluru Police Commissioner's office seeking protection for the woman seen in a video with minister Ramesh Jarkiholi. SHIRAN