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KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, RESEARCH AND REFERENCE BRANCH

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# 'Centre curtailed Delhi govt.'s powers as a punishment'

Step taken due to my support to farmers, says Kejriwal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JIND

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government at the Centre had curtailed the powers of the Delhi government to punish him for supporting the farmers. He said he was prepared to sacrifice his life for it.

Addressing a "Kisan Mahapanchayat" here, Mr. Kejriwal said the Union government had brought the Bill in Parliament divesting the Delhi Chief Minister of all powers to "punish Kejriwal for supporting the farmers' movement". "The Delhi Chief Minister has no power. All power is with the Lieutenant Governor. An elected government with 60-odd MLAs has no power. Did we fight for Independence for this day?" he asked.

He said he was not scared of any "punishment" and



Arvind Kejriwal

ready to sacrifice even his life. "Those who are opposed to farmers' movement are traitors. We are ready to make any sacrifice to make this movement a success," said Mr. Kejriwal. He said the BJP had all the power but had not done a single work worth mentioning in seven years. He said one does not need power to serve people. "The BJP has power but its intentions are bad. We don't have power but have right intentions," said Mr. Kejriwal.

"Your son is Chief Minister in Delhi. There is no need to worry," Mr. Kejriwal as-

sured farmers amid loud cheers.

He said it was his dream to see India as a "developed" country in his lifetime.

Despite pressure from the Union government and the threats to curtail his power, he did not accord permission to convert stadiums in Delhi into jails for agitating farmers, he said. "I put a noting on the file saying farmers movement and their demands were justified and returned it." He said he directed his MLAs to serve the agitating farmers as "common man" and arranged for power, water and toilets at the sit-in sites. He also condemned the police action on farmers in Rohtak on Saturday during Chief Minister Manohar Lal's visit.

Party leaders attributed the thin attendance at the mahapanchayat to farmers blocking roads at several places on Sunday in protest against the police action.