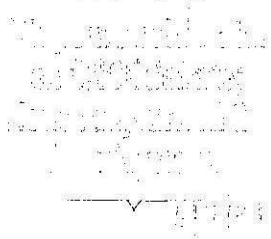


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# Congress' protest over MLA's suspension washes out Assembly proceedings



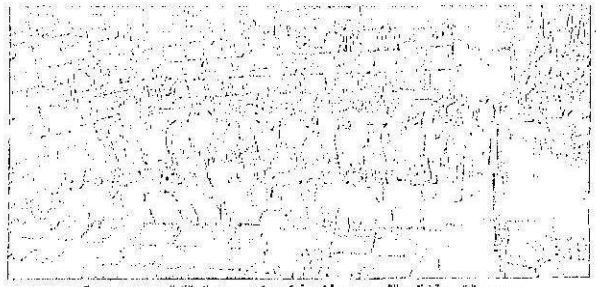
BENGALURU, DHNS

**C**ongress legislators continued their protest against the suspension of party MLA B K Sangamesh on Friday, washing out proceedings at the Legislative Assembly on the second day of the budget session. The Assembly was adjourned twice before noon by

Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri as Congress legislators entered the well of the House and raised slogans. The demonstrations continued post lunch, forcing the speaker to adjourn the session till budget on Monday at 12 noon.

The developments poured cold water on Kageri's initiative to organise a debate on "One Nation, One Election" (ONOE) on the first two days of the budget session. Attempts by Kageri to convince the opposition to withdraw the protest against the suspension of Bhadravathi MLA and participate in the discussion was unsuccessful.

Chief Minister B S Yeddyappa said that Congress



Congress MLAs protest in the well of the House on day two of the budget session in the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

was disrupting House proceedings, lacking any agenda to tackle the government. "What did Sangamesh do? ... If any injustice was meted to him, let him take it up in the Assembly. We will discuss what

happened in Bhadravathi," he said, accusing the MLA of rowdy behaviour. Earlier, opposition leader Siddaramaiah had demanded the Speaker to withdraw the suspension order, which he

alleged was issued unilaterally by violating House norms. However, Kageri refused to yield to the demands of the Opposition leading to sloganeering by Congress MLAs in the well of the House.

Sangamesh, it can be recalled, was suspended from the Assembly for a week on Thursday, after he removed his shirt protesting an FIR against him and his family members.

"The speaker is not an agent of the chief minister," Siddaramaiah said, accusing Kageri of suspending Sangamesh on behalf of the CM. "Removing the shirt was neither indecent nor vulgar," he said, seeking clarity on the House rule that provides for suspension for the act.

Speaker Kageri dismissed allegations of taking a unilateral decision to suspend Sangamesh. "His suspension was under Section 343 of the Legislative Assembly Rules of Procedure. He was removed only with the consent of a majority of members in the House after ruling party moved a resolution," he said.

Prior to the protest by Congress MLAs, 19 legislators from the party had submitted names to talk on ONOE, along with 15 each from the BJP and the JD(S). "I had requested them to stage a walk out if they were not willing to talk and let other legislators from the JD(S) and the BJP express their views," he added.