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PAPER CLIPPINGS

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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Social welfare

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 14/3/2017

Govt begins  
discussions with  
legal experts on  
50% quota cap

**Bengaluru:** A week after the Supreme Court asked states to make their stand clear on whether reservation should remain within 50 per cent or not, the government on Saturday started consultations with legal experts.

Law and parliamentary affairs minister Basavaraj Bommai held a meeting with retired judges, chairman of the backward classes commission, former advocate generals and senior officials of the law department to discuss what stand the government should take in the matter. The government has to spell it out before the SC before March 23.

Bommai said legal experts have submitted their opinion in writing. "We will have another round of meetings and finalise our stand," he said.

The government is already under pressure to raise the cap on total reservation as four major communities are seeking increase. The SC's decision to seek views of states on the 50 per cent cap has come as a blessing disguise for the government to buy time from the communities.

**Commission to hear seers' plea**

Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission has issued notice to Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami of Kudala Sangama and Vachananand Swami of Harihar, asking them to provide documents to support their demand for reservation of Panchamasali Lingayats under 2A category. Both seers have been asked to appear before the commission in person or through their lawyers on March 22. The government has asked the commission to study the socio-economic status of Panchamasalis and submit a report.

Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami and senior BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal have threatened to launch an indefinite strike if the government doesn't give a time-bound assurance. Bommai said he made a detailed statement on the government's stand on Tuesday and would speak to Yatnal and the seer with a request to drop their agitation.