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10 Law -

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Govt will move bill against love jihad in budget session

No Confusion in BJP Over Issue, Says Kateel

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vijayapura/Bengaluru: The BS Yediyurappa government, will introduce a bill against what is described as "love jihad" in the upcoming budget session, state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel said on Wednesday.

Two months ago, the cabinet appeared to be divided over the issue. The then law minister JC Madhuswamy

said that there were no plans for a new law, whereas home minister Basavaraj Bommai maintained that Karnataka would frame rules on the lines of those considered or introduced by other BJP-governed states.

Kateel said that there was no confusion in BJP. "We



STATE BJP The government plans to press ahead even as the Supreme Court examines the legality of other states' laws

have successfully enacted the cow slaughter ban after getting the bill passed in both the houses of the legislature. Now, we will enact a law against love jihad in the budget session," he said.

The governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh proposed laws to prevent what they claim are attempts to draw Hindu women into relationships with Muslim men and convert them. The Supreme Court has decided to examine the legality

of these laws, and on Wednesday, it permitted an NGO to make Himachal and MP parties to a petition that has challenged the measures.

Last year, Yediyurappa had said that Karnataka would plan strong measures to prevent religious conversions in the name of love and marriage and the BJP executive committee passed a resolution at its meeting in Belagavi. But the government has not even started drafting the bill. "It all depends on the court ruling," said a minister.

Meanwhile, Kateel backed water resources minister Ramesh Jarkiholi's claims that several opposition MLAs were looking to join BJP. He said that 15 to 20 Congress and JD(S) MLAs had reached out. "They are disappointed with their parties and want to join us, but we don't need them now," he added.

On Basavagouda Patil Yatal's repeated criticism of Yediyurappa, Kateel said that the BJP disciplinary committee had sent a notice to the senior MLA. "Let him reply and we will see then. I will not respond to the issues Yatal has mentioned. People concerned will respond to his allegations," he said.

Yatal has alleged that BJP workers are not given suitable posts in corporations and Yediyurappa's son, BY Vijayendra, influences transfers. "Vijayendra is doing what he is supposed to do as the state vice-president of the party. The party has given him the responsibility of organising the party seeing his capability," Kateel said.