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7

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JD(S) pushes for Horatti as Council chairperson

Cong adopts wait and watch approach

BENGALURU, DHNS

With the resignation of Legislative Council chairperson K Pratapchandra Shetty imminent, JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda is learnt to have discussed with the BJP national leadership on having its member occupy the post in the upper house.

According to sources, the bio-data of senior JD(S) MLC Basavaraj Horatti has been sent to BJP national president J P Nadda. Horatti, who has served as a legislator for four decades, is seen as an amica-

ble leader by all three political parties.

However, JD(S) sources said clarity was needed on many aspects. "One doesn't know how deputy chairperson S L Dharme Gowda will react to the party proposing Horatti's name for the chairperson's post. For, if Horatti is named as the chairman, the deputy chairman's post will have to be handed over to BJP," a JD(S) source said.

Apparently, the JD(S) had made a similar request to the Congress in 2018 when both parties had a coalition. "However, Congress decided

to retain the chairman's post for itself and gave the deputy chairman's post to JD(S)," the leader pointed out.

But according to BJP's floor leader Kota Srinivas Poojary, no discussions have taken place between the two parties on who the next chairperson should be. "Electing a new chairman will be discussed only after the no-confidence motion is put to vote," he said, adding that the candidate will be finalised by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel and other senior party leaders.

Meanwhile, the Congress is playing a slow game hoping that the BJP will move a fresh notice for a no-confidence motion against Shetty. Party managers say this is Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah's plan to "expose" the JD(S).

"In fact, Shetty was willing

Council ruckus: BJP MLC files plaint

Senior BJP MLC Ayanur Manjunath on Thursday shot off a letter to the Legislative Council Chairperson K Pratapchandra Shetty seeking strict action against Congress MLCs who "behaved badly" and "brought impurity" to a Constitutional post during the unruliness in the upper house on December 13.

In his letter, Manjunath has named Congress MLCs M Narayanaswamy, Chandrashekhar B Patil, Srinivas Mane, Nazir Ahmed and Prakash Rathod. "I humbly request to take action so that it is made known to future legislators that such behaviour will not be tolerated," he stated.

to resign earlier, but he was asked to hold on as we wanted to see how the JD(S) will sway. The more they sway towards the BJP, the more we can attack them," a source said.

In all likelihood, Shetty is

expected to resign once the BJP moves a fresh notice for a no-confidence motion against him. With the BJP and JD(S) together, the Congress does not have enough numbers on the floor of the upper house to defeat the motion.