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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Backward classes welfare Department

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 19/10/2020

BJP in a spot after bid to placate Golla community

Move To Notify Corporation Before Sira Bypoll Angers Many

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Bengaluru: The ruling BJP has unwittingly ruffled the feathers of the Golla community (cattle herders) while wooing its voters in the upcoming Sira assembly bypoll.

The government's move to notify the Kadu Golla Development Corporation just before the bypoll were announced has left them fuming as many sub-castes from the community have been left out.

The community is the second largest votebank (about 25,000 votes) after Vokkaligas in the assembly segment. The calculation is that Vokkaliga votes that account for about 20% of the total Sira electorate (2.15 lakh voters) would be split among three major parties with all fielding candidates from the community. The move to create the board was designed to help consolidate Golla votes,

However, it turned out to be counterproductive with benefits confined to only the Kadu Golla sub-caste that's seen as a minuscule part.

"The Golla community comprise about 98 sub-castes and all are considered to be economically and

“The government has erred in assessing the socio-economic condition of the community in general and sub-castes in particular. The order was issued hurriedly to reap electoral benefit in Sira. The government should rectify this error...”

BS Shivanna | PRESIDENT, RAM MANOHAR LOHIA THINKERS FORUM

The decision to create the board was meant to help consolidate Golla votes. However, it turned out to be counterproductive with benefits confined only to the Kadu Golla sub-caste that's seen as a minuscule part. A section of Gollas is also upset since the BJP had promised to field their leader DT Srinivas but didn't

socially backward. These sub-castes have been deprived because they have been kept out of the ambit of the development corporation,” said K Srinivasulu, joint secretary, Karnataka Golla-Yadava Sanga.

A section of Gollas is also upset since the BJP leadership had earlier promised to field DT Srinivas, community leader and husband of Hiriyur MLA Poornima Srinivas. The ticket finally went to Rajesh Gowda, a Vokkaliga candidate who joined BJP recently. Srinivas filed nomination as a rebel candidate.

DANCE OF DEMOCRACY

This is a cause of concern in the BJP. The party, which has never won the Sira seat, hopes to reprise last year's bypolls wherein it wrested Vokkaliga-dominant KR Pete assembly constituency from JD(S) thanks to CM BS Yediyurappa's team led by son BY Vijayendra. Srinivasulu said community leaders have brought the issue to the government's notice and they would take it up after the bypoll.

The CM has asked officials of the backward classes welfare depart-

ment to look into the issue. Officials said the plan was to form Golla Development Corporation and changed at the behest of some BJP leaders.

“We insisted the board be confined to the Kadu Golla community and the change was well thought-out. The community is the most backward among Gollas and we want welfare schemes to reach them,” said BJP MLC N Ravikumar, who is in the Sira campaign team.

Constitution of corporations and boards has political significance since it involves huge amounts of money and funds to carry out welfare schemes for particular communities are released through these bodies.

“The government has erred in assessing the socio-economic condition of the community in general and sub-castes in particular. The order was issued hurriedly to reap electoral benefit in Sira. But, the government should rectify this error and consider the demand of including Kadu Gollas into Scheduled Tribes,” said BS Shivanna, president, Ram Manohar Lohia Thinkers Forum.

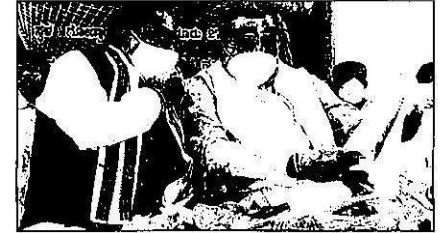
KSE, ex-CM join hands, want caste census report published

Bengaluru: Weeks after taking the lead in demanding ST status for the Kuruba community, RDPR minister KS Eshwarappa joined forces with former CM and opposition leader Siddaramaiah to urge the government to accept and publish the socio-economic survey (caste census) report submitted by Kantharaj Commission.

An event held by Federation of Backward Castes on Sunday saw Eshwarappa and Siddaramaiah sharing the dais. Former minister HM Revanna, ex-MLC KP Nanjundi and pontiffs of some mutts also took part.

“The report was supposed to be implemented during the Congress regime led by Siddaramaiah. It was not even implemented by the JD(S)-Congress coalition government. We need to put in a concerted effort, irrespective of party lines. Siddaramaiah has said he will launch a street agitation, but our government will not give the chance,” said Eshwarappa.

Siddaramaiah said his government could not accept the report since it was not ready and he will urge the present dispensation to do so. “Eshwarappa is a minister in the present government and has said he will see to it that the report is accepted. Let us trust him. Also, we request the government to appoint a chairman to the backward classes welfare commission,” said Siddaramaiah. Referring to the demand for ST tag by communities like Kuruba, Valmiki and Golla, he said they should be given the status if they are eligible.



ON SAME PAGE: Eshwarappa and Siddaramaiah