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Four cases in Soudha; staff want ban on public entry

To Meet CM Today, Seek Enforcement Of Strict Measures

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

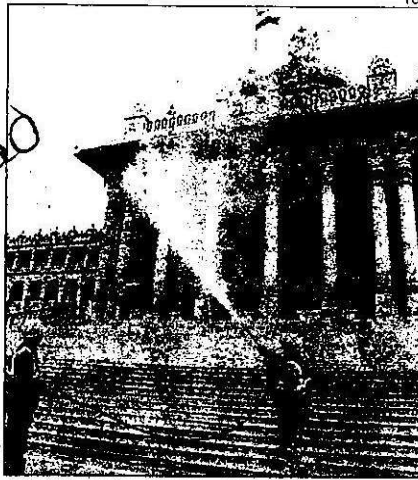
- **Bengaluru:** With yet another Covid-19 case recorded in the corridors of power, secretariat employees are worried. Fearing they may contract the infection, the staff will urge the government to ban public entry to Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha and MS Building for at least a few weeks.

On Sunday, one more positive case was identified in the government printing press located at Vikasa Soudha. This takes the count of infected secretariat staff at Vikasa Soudha, Vidhana Soudha and the chief minister's home office, Krishna, to four.

"With each passing day, it's becoming increasingly worrisome as one or the other secretariat employee is turning positive for Covid-19. Most of us are even considering not going to office as it is a scary situation for us and our families," said a secretariat employee.

Government staffers say they also have concerns regarding the entourage of legislators and ministers, who visit the premises to meet their patrons.

"Despite efforts, the situation hasn't been brought under control. We will request the government to enforce strict protocol for people entering the secretariat and major government buildings. We want members of the public and non-essential staff to be banned from these buildings for a few weeks," said government secreta-



SAFETY FIRST: A file photo of Vidhana Soudha being sanitised in the wake of coronavirus scare

Contract workers a concern

According to the association, the concern is more in terms of the public and contract workers, who have been hired in a stop-gap arrangement. "There are a lot of contract employees who are non-essential and can be asked to stay away from work for the time being. If nothing else, let police passes be issued to enter the secretariat," said Shadakshari.

riat employees' association president CS Shadakshari, adding the association will meet the chief minister on Monday morning to ensure stringent measures are taken in this regard.

K'pura constituency self-imposes lockdown till July 1

Bengaluru: Amid a spike in cases, Kanakapura constituency has decided to go for self-imposed lockdown for 17 hours per day till July 1. Shopkeepers have voluntarily agreed to limit business hours between 7am and 11am from Monday. However, it will not affect public transport, banks, government offices or health services.

On Sunday, local legislator and Congress state chief DK Shivakumar and Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh held a meeting with district administration officials and residents. The aim was to map the way forward as Kanakapura recorded 36 active cases. The segment is part of Ramanagara district which has seen 86 cases till date.

"People came to a consensus on imposing restrictions in the interest of public health. It's not the government's decision, and hence not formal," said Shivakumar. Ramanagara DCMS Archana, superintendent of police Anup Shetty and other officials attended the meeting.

SSLC exams will be held

Shivakumar said SSLC exams will not be affected by the lockdown as it is up to the district administration to take care of official matters. "Official activities of the government, banks and public transport will continue as usual," said Anup Shetty.

Suresh said the number of positive cases spiked in the assembly segment after a doctor couple and family members of a silk trader tested positive.