

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಸೋದನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ

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Congress-led govt. falls in Puducherry

CM Narayanasamy resigns, blames BJP for political crisis; NDA not to stake claim to form government

RAJESH B. NAIR
PUDUCHERRY *23/2/21*

The Congress-led government in Puducherry fell on Monday after Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy submitted his resignation to Lieutenant-Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan as it became apparent that he had lost the confidence of the House.

A motion of confidence moved by Mr. Narayanasamy in the Assembly was not put to vote. However, Speaker V.P. Sivakolanthu announced that it stood defeated after the Chief Minister, questioning the right of the three nominated members to vote, led a walkout of the legislators of the ruling Congress-DMK alliance. Fourteen Opposition MLAs from the All India N.R. Congress (7), AIADMK (4) and BJP (3 nominated) were in the House when the Speaker gave his ruling.

Spate of resignations
Resignations by half-a-dozen legislators - five from the Congress, including two Ministers, and one from the DMK - in recent weeks and the disqualification of a Congress legislator last year had reduced the government to a minority. The House



Testing times: Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy staging a walkout from the Assembly with his supporters on Monday. *T. SINGARAVELU*

strength came down to 26 from 33 due to which the Opposition outnumbered the ruling alliance - Congress (9, including the Speaker), DMK (2) and Independent (1).

Soon after the House assembled at 10 a.m. on the directions of the Lt. Governor to the government to prove its majority, Mr. Narayanasamy moved a motion of confidence and spoke for about an hour on the hurdles they faced from the Centre and from former Lt. Governor Ki-

ran Bedi over the past few years. As soon as he finished his speech, Government Whip R.K.R Anantharaman sought a clarification from Mr. Sivakolanthu on the voting rights of the three nominated legislators belonging to the BJP. When the Opposition started arguing with the ruling party members, Mr. Narayanasamy and the ruling party members staged a walkout.

Soon after they left the Assembly, Mr. Sivakolanthu in-

What was the necessity to remove a democratically elected government just around 10 days before the announcement of the Assembly election? The Centre uses Income Tax, CBI and ED to threaten Opposition leaders to form their government

In our camp we had some timid legislators, and BJP was successful in weaning them away. The people of the Union Territory are watching the developments
V. NARAYANASAMY

Congress sees a familiar pattern

Congress leaders on Monday lashed out at the BJP for "toppling" elected governments, with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot claiming that the saffron party had tried it in his State as well. "Luring Congress MLAs has been their modus operandi in all Congress-ruled States. We saw this in Karnataka, M.P. & now in #Puducherry. They tried it in Rajasthan but people of Rajasthan taught them a lesson," Mr. Gehlot tweeted. **PAGE 9**

formed the House that the confidence motion moved by the Chief Minister stood defeated. Mr. Narayanasamy then left for the Raj Nivas to hand over his resignation to the Lt. Governor.

BJP leaders said the National Democratic Alliance would not stake claim to form the government before the election. "The National Democratic Alliance will form the government only after the election," nominated legislator and BJP local unit

president V. Saminathan told *The Hindu*.

Addressing reporters after submitting his resignation, Mr. Narayanasamy said they had staged the walkout as the Speaker did not clarify on their demand on the voting rights of the nominated legislators. He said the Speaker did not agree to "our view" that only members elected by the people had voting rights.

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 "As the Speaker did not agree, we staged a walkout. Even in our absence, he should have put the motion of confidence to vote. In the meantime, Speaker himself gave a ruling, which is absolutely wrong. But we have the moral responsibility to resign. So I tendered the resignation," he said.

The Opposition and Centre used the three nominated legislators to destabilise the government, he charged. Of them, two had contested in the 2016 As-

sembly polls and lost their deposits. BJP leaders, who were rejected by the people, were directly appointed by the Centre and then used as an instrument to topple a democratically elected government, he said.

Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan has forwarded the resignation letter of Mr. Narayanasamy and a report on the Assembly proceedings to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for its consideration, a source in the Raj Nivas said.