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To overcome TDP hurdle, Jagan plans to scrap Legislative Council

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy has proposed closure of the Legislative Council in the state.

The move comes a day after the Upper House dominated by the Opposition TDP referred the capital restructure bills to a select committee thereby blocking the Reddy government plans of shifting the executive capital from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam.

At present, six states including Karnataka have the bicameral legislature—with both Legislative Assembly and Council. The structure is similar to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Interestingly, if Reddy gets to abolish the Council, he would be reversing his father's action. It was YS Rajasekhara Reddy who as the chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh revived the Council in 2007. The upper house was scrapped in 1985 when the TDP

founder NT Rama Rao was the chief minister. The TDP was troubled by the Congress then, like the YSR Congress is upset by TDP now.

Reddy's exasperation with the Wednesday developments in the Council was on display in his speech in the Assembly on Thursday evening.

"We are a government formed with 151 MLAs i.e. 86% of the house. We have the people's mandate (and we passed the bill). The Council could have passed, rejected or suggested amendments but claiming it as his discretion, the chairman sent it to a Select Committee," Reddy said.

"The Chairman says that rules do not permit, but he is using his discretionary powers to send it to the select committee anyway. This is like someone proclaiming that killing is a crime but then commits a murder. Is this not the slaying of democracy?" Reddy said.