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Rebels call Speaker a 'hypocrite', to approach SC over disqualification

Say Speaker dishonoured his chair by behaving like a loyal Congressman

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THE disqualified rebel MLAs have finally returned to Bengaluru late on Sunday night. However, post the disqualification, they have now decided to knock on the doors of the Supreme Court demanding 'justice.'

The rebels, including Ramesh Jarkiholi, Mahesh Kumathalli, R Shankar, S T Somashekar and Sudhakar will approach the apex court questioning the Speaker's decision. Before stepping down, Speaker Ramesh Kumar disqualified all 17 MLAs, including three from JDS.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, disqualified MLA from Chikballapur assembly constituency K Sudhakar, said, "I have not spoken about this with the other MLAs who were disqualified. I may speak to them and we might fight this together," he said. Defending himself, Sudhakar



Speaker Ramesh Kumar hands over his resignation to Dy Speaker Krishna Reddy

said that he should not have been disqualified. "What Ramesh Kumar did was illegal and biased. He has dishonoured the Speaker's chair. He did not behave like a Speaker, but as a 'loyal Congressman.' A Speaker should be unbiased. We are elected representatives and lakhs of people voted for us. Is this the way a Speaker

2 MLAs MOVE SC

Days after being disqualified from the state Assembly, two MLAs on Monday approached the Supreme Court against the Speaker's decision under the anti-defection law. It is likely that few other legislators might also move the apex court soon. Senior advocate Mukul Rohtagi is likely to mention the petitions on Tuesday before the Chief Justice.

treats elected representatives? We were not even allowed to appeal," he said.

He added that that what the Speaker did was 'unexpected.' "Going by what he said in the past six years, we never thought he would do this. He is a hypocrite," he said.

Sudhakar said that he was ready for a legal battle. When

asked if he gets a chance to contest elections, which party he would back, he said, "One thing at a time. We will finish this legal matter first."

S T Somashekar told media-persons that they knew the Speaker would do this. "This is why we will approach the Supreme Court. We will go and question Ramesh Kumar's decision to disqualify us," he said.

Somashekar alleged that many Congress leaders wanted to see the coalition government collapse. They did not want to run the government with JDS. "The same leaders are acting as if they are hurt. They are hypocrites!" he said.

Nagaraj chooses to retire

Former MLA M T B Nagaraj, who was one of the rebels, said he is going to retire from politics. "My son is a BBMP Councillor. It is up to him to continue or join any party of his choice," he said.