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PAC plans privilege motion against Speaker

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the State legislature is planning to move a privilege motion against Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri for stalling a probe into alleged corruption in the procurement of devices and protective equipment to fight COVID-19.

The PAC, headed by the

3/20
21*
former Minister and senior Congress leader H.K. Patil, had sought a report from the Health and Family Welfare Department on the alleged complaints related to siphoning off public funds to procure the devices and protective equipment.

Mr. Kageri issued an order on May 27 barring House committees from conducting field visits or meetings with officials in view of the

COVID-19 pandemic. This irked Mr. Patil, who alleged that Mr. Kageri's order was "tantamount to promoting corruption and curtailing the rights and privileges of legislators and members of the PAC".

The committee will take a final decision on moving the privilege motion at its meeting on June 2, Mr. Patil said at a press conference on Saturday.