

Special Assembly session to discuss SC order today

Govt does not even have a proper resolution to move

By A Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Rattled by the Supreme Court order to close down polluting industries, the Delhi government will hold a special Assembly session on Monday. But passing-the-buck is expected to be the tone and tenor of the meet, given the prevalent situation.

Sources said that the fact that the Delhi government is not yet decided on the resolution to be moved is an indication of the fact that it wants to "wash its hands of the matter".

"They have not yet tabled a proper resolution for consideration," said sources. The government, in a special session, should table a resolution which is then discussed and debated on the floor of the House. At the end of the discussion, the government makes certain recommendations.

The idea behind such a special session is to let the public know the government's stance on the issue, now that the apex court had given its verdict — close all polluting units in non-conforming areas within four weeks. "There is no point in calling such a session when the intention is to shift blame on others," he said.

Decrying the calling of the session as not a "problem-solver," he added, "Delhi wants to shift blame

onto the BJP in the current situation." The BJP too is expected to take advantage of the situation now that the SC verdict has put the state government in a fix.

Ideally, sources said, the session should make some recommendation to the higher authorities in order to sort out the situation. "They should make a collective appeal to the apex court to review its order, if necessary by calling a larger bench of judges. Or, they could also ask the President of India to intervene in the matter," he added.

But in the current imbroglio, the government is interested in washing off its hands, he said. "Even the concept of polluting industries is not clear. Even the flour mills come under its purview of pollution."

The BJP too, it seems, is not serious about the special session as the leader of the Opposition could not be contacted as he was "not in town and would be back tomorrow to attend the House."

Earlier, the Congress Legislature Party had reportedly drawn a resolution to be tabled in the Parliament. But the resolution deriding Union urban development minister Jagmohan and blaming the BJP for the prevalent situation was not accepted by the assembly Speaker.

Demolition man pleads for end to 'crisis of character'

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: A new mindscape for Delhi if a new landscape is to be achieved. That is the prescription Union urban development minister Jagmohan has for the country's Capital if it wants to emerge as a beautiful and balanced city.

The minister was airing his views on what Delhi needs to do to emerge as city beautiful while inaugurating a panel discussion on 'Delhi Urban Vision 2021' organised by the Indian Institute of Architects in the Capital on Sunday.

Jagmohan said it is necessary to begin a movement, a kind of renaissance for the city which will help create an environment of honesty, dedication and dynamism. Only then, said Jagmohan, will civic values and work-culture become healthy and strike roots.

In a reference to the polluting units whose relocation has been ordered by the Supreme Court, Jagmohan said: "I have little doubt that if illegal activities are to be condoned in Delhi and huge industrial complexes are allowed to emerge out of residential areas, then, it would be better to abandon the pretence and posture of developing it as a balanced and harmonious pattern of human settlements."

Consider some of the facts put forth by the minister. Going by present attitudes and practices, Jagmo-

han said Delhi will run the risk of having a population of nearly 30 million people in the next few years and in the process become an "ugly, unhealthy, unworkable and unlivable city."

This, he feared could deal a death blow to the National Capital Region.

The minister admitted that the crisis through which the city is passing is not merely one of governance but one that extends to the governed too. "It is a crisis of character, commitment, conscience, and the creative and constructive sense of the community as a whole."

He added, "I have no doubt that if the present trend and attitude persist, both physical and mental pollution will increase, productivity and peace will suffer a further decline and the future of Delhi would be sealed."

Jagmohan called for developing the National Capital Region which he said holds the key to the future of Delhi adding, "It is our national commitment to develop this region."

Emphasising the need to develop an integrated policy for human settlements and the human settlement technology, Jagmohan said, "A sense of history, respect for heritage and regard for sustainable development have been built in the pattern and principles of planning for Delhi's future."



A wall blackened by emission of polluting gases in Vishwas Nagar.

Kumaljeet Singh