

B'lore Teachers' segment: Congress' Puttanna wins MLC bypoll

BENGALURU, DHNS

Puttanna of Congress has registered victory in the by-election held to the Legislative Council from Bangalore Teachers' constituency.

Opposition BJP-JD(S) combine candidate A P Ranganath lost to Puttanna by 1,507 votes. It is the first defeat for the BJP-JD(S) combine.

The seat fell vacant after incumbent Puttanna quit BJP and joined Congress in the 2023 Legislative Assembly polls.

He contested from Rajajinagar and was defeated by BJP's S Suresh Kumar. Puttanna will now be the MLC up to November 2026.

Puttanna secured 8,260 votes against the 6,753 votes of Ranganath. As many as 1,239 votes were rejected.

Puttanna dedicated his victory to the teachers' community. "I am always with the teachers' community and have won from this constituency five times. I'm grateful to teachers who stood by me



Puttanna.

despite the BJP and JD(S) coming together," he said.

Ranganath said his defeat was "personal and not that of the NDA"

and accused the Congress government of misusing the administrative machinery.

"BEOs and DDPIs were misused. Congress leaders mounted pressure and forced them to work in my opponent's favour," he charged.

JD(S) workers accused Yeshwanthpur BJP MLA S T Somashekhar of working against Ranganath. "The Yeshwanthpur constituency, which covers Bangalore University, has more voters," a JD(S) worker said. Ahead of the polls, JD(S) had filed a complaint against Puttanna for allegedly trying to lure voters with gifts.

Ranganath fought against Puttanna earlier, too, and lost by 1,800 votes. The constituency always witnessed a BJP versus JD(S) fight.