



NAME OF THE NEWSPAPER

THE HINDU

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Nullify Bahuguna's nomination for by-election, demands BJP

Sandeep Joshi

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday petitioned the Election Commission seeking cancellation of the nomination of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna for the Uttarakhand Assembly by-election from Sitarganj for violating the model code of conduct and sought a probe into alleged use of money by Mr. Bahuguna in getting the sitting BJP MLA to resign in his favour.

Accompanied by senior BJP leaders, Leader of Opposition in Uttarakhand Ajay Bhatt submitted a memorandum to Chief Elec-

tion Commissioner V.S. Sampath alleging that Mr. Bahuguna gave money to sitting BJP MLA Kiran Mandal to make him resign which was against Constitutional norms. "This is a clear case of horse-trading which needs to be probed by an independent authority," he demanded.

Mr. Bhatt said Mr. Bahuguna was making various promises to the electorate in Sitarganj, which falls in Terai region of Kumaon, despite the model code of conduct being in place. Recently the Congress government in the State announced an increase in employees' dearness allowance which is

also against the rule. All these election-oriented steps were enough to cancel Mr. Bahuguna's nomination and order a probe against him, Mr. Bhatt said.

The BJP MLA said since the Congress came to power in Uttarakhand, it had been trying to vitiate the political atmosphere by "purchasing" BJP MLAs. It was paying no heed to development of the State. Instead, it was promoting corruption, he alleged.

Mr. Bhatt said the party would approach the President seeking dismissal of the Congress Government for indulging in horse-trading.

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चुनाव आयुक्त से शिकायत की

नई दिल्ली-देहरादून (ब्यूरो)। उत्तराखण्ड के नेता प्रतिपक्ष अजय भट्ट ने शुक्रवार को दिल्ली में मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त से मुलाकात कर उन्हें कांग्रेस द्वारा सितारगंज सीट खरीदे जाने संबंधी शिकायत पत्र सौंपा।

साथ ही सुबूत स्वरूप एक सीडी व कुछ दस्तावेज भी नेता प्रतिपक्ष ने मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त को सौंपे। नेता प्रतिपक्ष का आरोप है कि सितारगंज से भाजपा के निर्वाचित विधायक किरण मंडल को दस करोड़ रुपये की बड़ी राशि देकर उनसे सीट खाली कराई गई है।