

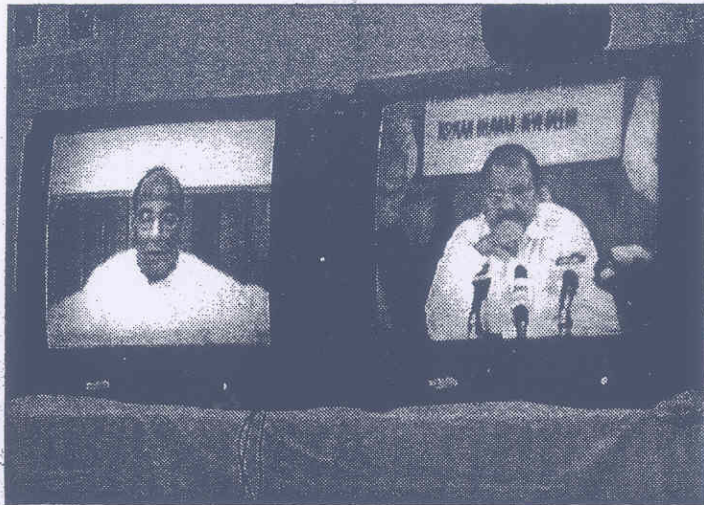
Slipshod work annoys Rajnath no end

HT Correspondent
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WHAT MAKES Chief Minister Rajnath Singh hot under the collar? While there is no single identifiable cause, on Monday it was the failure of his officers to hand him a ready update during a video conference because of which he had to cut a sorry figure.

"You should have briefed me properly on these issues," he barked at the officers soon after switching off a tripartite video conference session with Union Minister for Rural Development Venkaiah Naidu today.

The third participant in this conference was Karnataka Chief Minister SM Krishna.



Chief Minister Rajnath Singh (left) in conversation with Venkaiah Naidu in video conferencing programme on Monday.

While Mr Krishna made his point clear, Mr Singh had to grope for some replies because of some mix-up at the official level.

Mr Singh was able to make up for the initial hiccups by listing his demands at the end of the conference.

However, the Karnataka Chief Minister was forthright from the very beginning — he even stated that his Government was not ready to provide consultations free of cost to other States.

It was not that Mr Rajnath Singh lacked in communications skills, or had a poor style of presentation.

Mr Singh was not properly briefed about the agenda, points to be put up for discussion and the

achievements of the State Government in computerising the revenue records. The Chief Minister was provided details about all such items in bits and pieces.

Secretary to Chief Minister Sanjay Aggarwal had to frequently hand over handwritten notes to Mr Singh whenever he required them.

The fact that UP has done considerably well in the field of consolidation of land holdings though was recognised even by Mr Naidu in his address, the Chief Minister was obviously not happy with the manner in which he had to deal with the programme.

Moreover, Mr Singh was also not happy with the preparations for the conference.