

Helen at Soudha, no word on shifting statue

HC's 15-Day Deadline Is Set To End Today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: Work on the underground section of Namma Metro covered another milestone on Wednesday with the first tunnel boring machine employed for the task showing up at the Vidhana Soudha at 11.55 am.

But the development doesn't bode

METRO MACHINE

speedy execution of work at the site as the state government is yet to move on the shifting of the Ambedkar statue at the spot. The 15-day deadline set by the Karnataka high court, meanwhile, is set to end on Thursday.

Law and parliamentary affairs minister S Suresh Kumar, who was present at the site when Helen burrowed out of the ground, said: "The state government is studying the or-



SHE FINALLY ARRIVES: Helen has been burrowing 60 feet under for the underground section of Metro's eastern line between Majestic and Minsk Square

der, technical options and initiating talks to socially backward groups and dalit organizations who are opposing the shifting of the statue."

Workers of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC), however, exulted as Helen showed up at the Vidhana Soudha underground station. Helen and Margarita, the two tunnel boring machines, have been burrowing 60 feet under for the underground section of Metro's eastern line between Majestic and Minsk Square. Margarita is said to be some distance behind Helen.

WHAT NEXT?

BMRC sources said that Helen will now be dismantled and assembled at the other end of the station before it begins burrowing for the last leg of the underground section.

"Helen should be tunnelling again by the end of February 2013. Day-wise schedule of dismantling and assembly the machine is already worked out," said N Sivasailam, BMRC managing director.