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HC refuses to issue interim order against three MLCs

Bengaluru: The Karnataka high court on Monday declined to pass any interim order on a public interest litigation (PIL) that seeks to block possible appointment of MLCs R Shankar, AH Vishwanath and MTB Nagaraj as state ministers. A division bench headed by chief justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka sought to know on what basis the petitioner had said they would be made ministers in the BS Yediyurappa government.

The bench, however, issued a notice to the government, seeking a response to the petition. Before adjourning the hearing to September 23, it said that it hoped that the governor and chief minister would take a look at the constitutional posi-

TIMES NEWS NETWORK tion before making any decision. AS Harish, a member of the governing council of the Advocates' Association of Bengaluru, has filed the petition in the court.

> A public interest litigation seeks to block possible appointment of R Shankar, AH Vishwanath and MTB Nagaraj as ministers in the BSY government

He has stated that Shankar, Vishwanath and Nagaraj, along with 14 former Congress-JD(S) legislators were disqualified by the assembly speaker in July last year and the decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court in November. They are, therefore, ineligible to hold any ministerial position.

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Harish's counsel, Prince Isac, argued that the three politicians might be given a backdoor entry into the government, which would violate Articles 164 (1A) 361B of the Constitution.

The articles prohibit a disqualified member from becoming a minister or holding any remunerative political post for the remainder of the term. He added that as per the Supreme Court's directive, a disqualified member can be considered for the minister's role only if they get re-elected from the same constituency. Shankar didn't fight the bypolls, while Vishwanath and Nagaraj contested but lost.

The high court was told that the chief minister recently made a public statement about their induction into his cabinet.