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CM trashes reports of dissidence, silent on MLA Yatnal's remarks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Monday dismissed reports of dissidence within the BJP and refused to react on the secret meeting held by around 15 party MLAs three days ago.

"I have nothing to say about the meeting. My focus is only on development and fighting Covid-19, nothing else," Yediyurappa told reporters.

POLITICAL NOTES

He refused to comment on senior BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal's remarks that he was only the CM and not his leader. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and JP Nadda are my leaders," Yatnal had said.

The meeting held on May 29, reportedly under the leadership of disgruntled Hukkeri MLA Umesh Katti, triggered speculation that many BJP legislators were not happy with Yediyurappa's style of functioning and were preparing to raise a banner of re-

Centre will release more funds: BSY

Yediyurappa expressed hope that the Centre will soon provide additional funds to cash-starved Karnataka. He said the Centre had already given Rs 10,079 crore to Karnataka for implementation of centrally sponsored schemes besides releasing Rs 1,869 crore to meet flood-relief expenses. He added that the Centre was "kind enough" to provide eight lakh tonnes of foodgrains worth Rs 2,351 crore to the state to feed poor during lockdown.

Asked about the estimated cut in central devolution of funds to Karnataka — over Rs 11,000 crore — and non-release of GST compensation on time, Yediyurappa said: "The Centre as well as all states are facing financial stress owing to Covid-19. But I am confident that it will release more funds to us in the coming days."

Earlier, Yediyurappa congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing one year of his second term in office.



volt. Katti and Yatnal have been sulking ever since they both were denied cabinet berths despite being seniors in the party.

In fact, Yediyurappa had openly acknowledged the injustice meted out to Katti and had on more than one occasion promised to induct him into the cabinet.

BSY an unquestionable leader: Kateel

State BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel said Yediyurappa is an unquestionable leader of the BJP in Karnataka, adding there's no dissidence. "There is no rift within the state BJP. A few MLAs met at Katti's residence to have dinner. It was not a rebel meeting. The

DKS' swearing-in postponed again

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar has yet again put off his swearing-in ceremony owing to Covid-19 restrictions. Shivakumar, who was appointed KPCC chief by the party high command in March, wanted



to take charge at a gala event on May 31, when the Congress national leadership, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, was expected in attendance.

However, it was postponed to June 7. The programme was designed in such a way that party workers could virtually take part from 2,800 locations across Karnataka. "We were all set to organise the event peacefully in compliance with Covid-19 norms. However, we were denied permission and have been forced to postpone it," Shivakumar said in a joint press conference he addressed with party veteran Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday. He is yet to announce the new date.

MLAs have not put forth any demand," Kateel said.

He said the party will not give any room for indiscipline and will not hesitate to initiate disciplinary action if needed. Deputy chief minister Laxman Savadi in Ballari also echoed Kateel's statement that Yediyurappa will complete the rest of his tenure as CM.