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# 'BJP has zero faith in Yatnal'

He will be removed after party disciplinary panel submits report: Arun Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BELAGAVI

The Bharatiya Janata Party has "zero faith" in disgruntled senior leader and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who has been going hammer and tongs against Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, party national general secretary and State in charge Arun Singh said on Friday and added that he was as good as removed from the party.

Mr. Singh, who was in Belagavi to take part in the campaign for the byelection to the Belagavi Lok Sabha seat, told presspersons that Mr. Yatnal would be removed from the BJP after the party disciplinary committee, which is looking into the objectionable statements made by him, submits its report.

He asserted that the BJP does not tolerate indiscipline at any level. "The BJP is a disciplined and democratic party. We have a committee that looks into such issues. That person's response has been received by the committee. Once it submits the report, we will remove him," Mr. Singh said.

## 'Minor issue'

Mr. Singh claimed it was a "minor issue" for the party.



Arun Singh

"We have not removed him till now. Why is that so? Please think about it. There could be a strategy behind

it, isn't it?" he asked, without going into details.

## 'KSE issue resolved'

Mr. Singh also maintained that the episode of senior leader and RDPR Minister K.S. Eshwarappa complaining to the Governor against interference in his departmental administration by the Chief Minister had been resolved. He argued that it was not a political issue. "I feel, however, that Mr. Eshwarappa should not have gone to the Raj Bhavan," Mr. Singh reiterated.

Mr. Singh also sought to put an end to speculation about a possible leadership

change in the State. "There will not be a change in leadership in Karnataka. Mr. Yediyurappa will continue as Chief Minister till the completion of his term," he said.

## Charge against Satish

Mr. Singh said the BJP's victory in the Belagavi byelection was assured, while accusing the Congress nominee, Satish Jarkiholi, of engaging in "anti-Hindu" activities.

"He has been continually insulting Indian culture and Hindu culture. He has been speaking against our great tradition and heritage," Mr. Singh claimed.

## Yatnal dares BJP to expel him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BELAGAVI

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, BJP MLA, on Friday dared the high command to expel him from the party for his criticism of Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and his family.

"They gave me a notice two months ago. That itself was uncalled for. Let them remove me from the party. Let us see how they do it," he said. This was in response to statement by

Arun Singh, BJP general secretary, that the party had issued a notice to Mr. Yatnal, which was "as good as his expulsion".

## 'Singh alone can't act'

"They issued a notice to me 60 days ago. No action has followed till now. What will they do now? Anyway, Mr. Singh alone cannot take any action," Mr. Yatnal told reporters at Bailhongal on Friday.

"The BJP high command

should take action against the corrupt practices and nepotism of Mr. Yediyurappa. They should not take action against someone like me who speaks the truth," he said.

He went on to strongly talk against Mr. Singh's stand.

"He is not working as the party general secretary. He is working as the general secretary of Mr. Yediyurappa and his son B.Y. Vijayendra," he said.