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Sulking Vishwanath to move SC, hits out at BJP colleagues

'It was Sangh Parivar's support that got me nominated'

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BENGALURU, DHNS

Faced with a political setback, BJP MLC A H Vishwanath on Tuesday said he would move Supreme Court against the High Court ruling that he cannot be inducted as a minister since his disqualification was intact.

On Monday, the High Court ruled that Vishwanath's disqualification would continue despite his nomination as MLC. As per Articles 164 (1-B) and 361-B of the Constitution, he needs to be 'elected' to either one of the Houses to hold a remunerative political post.

"While I welcome the High Court verdict, I'll move the Supreme Court with an appeal against it," Vishwanath said. "My membership is unaffected, but the question here is me becoming a minister, which is an office-of-profit and all that."

Vishwanath led the "mutiny" of Congress-JD(S) legislators last year, which saw the resignation and disqualification of 17 legislators, leading to the BJP coming to power. Vishwanath and other rebels had camped in Mumbai during the protracted political drama. He was with the JD(S) before jumping

ship to the BJP.

The SC upheld the disqualification while clearing the way for him to contest an election. In December 2019, Vishwanath lost the Hunsur bypoll. In July, a sulking Vishwanath was nominated to the Legislative Council under the 'litterateur' quota. He has penned a few books.

Vishwanath, 70, minced no words in making his disgruntlement clear on his situation.

"In June, four names were approved by the BJP core committee and sent to Delhi for the MLC elections. My name was on top, followed by MT BNagaraj, R Shankar and Pratap Simha Nayak. When the list came back, my name

was replaced with Sunil Vallyapure. It's still a mystery," Vishwanath said, adding that he took it up with Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa. "He pointed to Delhi.

It was the Sangh Parivar's support that got me nominated. But, I should've been elected."

Vishwanath's political journey began as a youth leader with the Congress, which he quit in 2017 to join the JD(S). He was first elected as MLA in 1978. He won four of the ten Assembly polls that he contested. He was also Mysore-Kodagu MP.

"I've served as a minister in the Veerappa Moily and S M Krishna governments. What happened last year was a mutiny. It wasn't so that I could become a minister in another government. We resigned to put an end to the demonic, dynastic politics in the state," he said.



A H Vishwanath