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Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj K S Eshwarappa on Friday tried to douse the controversy surrounding his letter to Governor Vajubhai Vala, saying he did not complain against Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa but had sought "suggestions" from the Governor.

Eshwarappa said he welcomed the chief minister's move to distribute funds as

per the request of MLAs. "I am unhappy as the procedure and the rules were not followed. I did not complain against Yediyurappa, but sought suggestions from the Governor, who served as finance minister for two terms and presented the Gujarat budget 18 times," he said.

Eshwarappa said the CM disbursed Rs 1,599 crore without informing him. "I am not a postman but a minister. It is not good to take decisions re-

lated to my department without bringing it to my notice," he said.

He said he and the chief minister have differences in a few matters and claimed that they would "strengthen the party together".

Eshwarappa said, "I am not a rebel. I am loyal".

"A lot of people, who are loyal, are misleading Yediyurappa. He joined the Karnataka Janata Paksha (KJP) by quitting BJP in 2012, by listening to a

few people. After joining KJP, no one was with Yediyurappa. So, he re-joined the BJP. We both had disputes then also," he said.

'No funds released'

Eshwarappa said the Rural Development Department had come up with the 'Chief Minister Grameena Sumarga' project and the CM had announced Rs 780 crore for the development of about 20,000 km roads in rural areas. But, no

funds were released despite repeated letters, he said.

'Don't care about signature campaign'

He said he does not care about the signature campaign, launched by some BJP MLAs and ministers for taking up the issue with the governor and the party high command. "A few MLAs, who are part of the campaign, telephoned me and said they participated in it due to certain reasons," he said.

Didn't complain against CM, says Eshwarappa