

Not in my hands, says CM on reservation demands

'I don't have any authority to make decision'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Friday said he was powerless in deciding on demands to revise reservation for Panchamasali Lingayats and Kuruba communities, throwing his hands up on a politically-sensitive issue.

"We're a national party, not a regional party. On any issue, decisions have to be taken after consulting the PM and other leaders. I don't have any authority to take any decision (on any of these issues)," Yediyurappa said in the Assembly, angering legislators from the influential Panchamasali sect, who are asking to be given Category 2A status. The Kurubas are agitating for ST status.

"We have 25 MPs. You can take whoever you want and meet the Central leaders. As

far as I'm concerned, I'm not in any position to give any solution. I state clearly that it can't be done," Yediyurappa added.

He made this statement in response to BJP legislator Basangouda Patil Yatnal, who sought clarity from the CM, over demands made by the communities.

Kudalasangama Panchamasali Mutt pontiff Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, who is leading the Category 2A agitation, asked Yediyurappa to resign.

"This has rubbed salt on our wound. (Yediyurappa) had assured us that it would be done. He has lost his mind and age is catching up. It's time he stepped down and another Lingayat is made the CM," he told reporters.

The Panchamasali seer is leading a padayatra to Ben-

Revenue figures

Total revenue target till Jan:
Rs 1,19,758 cr

Total revenue collected:
Rs 80,867 cr

67.5% of the target

GST Devolution

Budget estimates
Rs 28,591 cr

Received till January
Rs 14,902 cr



Revenue generation

Tax	Budget estimates for 2020-21	Collection till Jan
Commercial tax	Rs 66,327 cr	Rs 43,573 cr
Excise	Rs 22,700 cr	Rs 18,755 cr
Stamps and registration	Rs 12,655 cr	Rs 7,821 cr
Motor vehicle tax	Rs 7,115 cr	Rs 4,248 cr



(According to CM B S Yediyurappa's reply)

I can only assure that things will improve in the coming days. By March 15, I will ensure 85% expenditure across the board.

- B S Yediyurappa, CM

galuru to press for their demand. At present, the Veerashaiva-Lingayats get 5% reservation under Category 3B. They will get 15% under Category 2A. Numerically, the Panchamasali sect is the most influential among Lingayats. Yediyurappa belongs to the Ganiga sect of Lingayats.

In November 2020, Yedi-

yurappa deferred a decision on including the Veerashaiva-Lingayats in the central OBC list after he reportedly got a call from Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Soon after Yediyurappa made the statement, Yatnal lashed out saying the CM cannot take shelter under the prime minister.

Later in the day, Small Scale

Industries Minister C C Patil, Mines and Geology Minister Murugesh Nirani and Yatnal - all Panchamasalis - held talks with Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami to chalk out the next course of action. The Kuruba community is also taking out a 20-day padayatra seeking ST status. They are currently OBCs in Karnataka.

CM orders survey of Panchamasalis

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has ordered a study into the socio-economic and educational status of the community. Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission will conduct the study, according to the CMO. In another letter, Yediyurappa said that he was committed to the welfare of all communities in the state.

"We cannot take any hasty decisions on such matters, and have to proceed after comprehensive discussions with experts and by taking everyone into confidence," he said, seeking cooperation from Panchamasali community leaders for the same.