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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Cabinet

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7 ministers sworn into BSY Cabinet, rumblings in BJP

Portfolios yet to be assigned; reshuffle on the cards

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BENGALURU, DHNS

Seven legislators were sworn in as ministers in BS Yediyurappa's Cabinet on Wednesday, even as disgruntlement erupted among BJP legislators over "skewed" regional representation and selection of MLCS for ministerial berths.

While ministers' portfolios are yet to be allocated, there were indications of a possible reshuffle following requests by some ministers to change their posts. Excise Minister H Nagesh was asked to resign and the Independent MLA is expected to step down as minister on Thursday. He was later named chairman of the Ambedkar Development Corporation.

The new ministers inducted to the state Cabinet are Umesh

Katti (Hukkeri), Arvind Limbavali (Mahadevapura), MT B Nagaraj (MLC), Mirugesh Nirani (Bilgi), R Shankar (MLC), C P Yogeeshwar (MLC) and S Angara (Sullia). Though eight positions will be vacant following Nagesh's resignation, only seven positions were filled.

Recently elected MLA Muniratna — among those who resigned from the Congress-JD(S) coalition after being assured of a Cabinet berth — was left disappointed. Though he was among the favourites to be inducted, the BJP leadership decided against it as a case of electoral irregularities was pending.

Limbavali, sources said, got a berth by virtue of his association with the RSS. Induction of six-time Sullia MLA Angara was also pushed by the organisation, sources said.

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The newly sworn-in ministers with Governor Vajubhai Vala and Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/M/S MANJUNATH

CM gave in to blackmail: Yatnal

BJP MLA and former Union minister Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Wednesday alleged that three legislators, who have been blackmailing Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa "with some secret CDs", were made ministers, throwing seniority and honesty to the winds. Details on Page 6

'Cabinet expansion will not help'

Opposition Leader Siddaramaiah said that despite the expansion of the Cabinet with seven new ministers, the state government will not take off. He told reporters in Mysuru on Wednesday that with the expansion of the Cabinet, only the number of ministers will increase, resulting in increase in corruption. Details on Page 6

Expansion only a temporary fix?

Having faced increasing resentment from different factions within the party, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa appears to have got some respite from the Cabinet reshuffle on Wednesday. However, several leaders and political experts opined that Yediyurappa's respite was only temporary as fresh rebellion was now brewing. Details on Page 7

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7 ministers sworn in...

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The announcement of new ministers reopened the fault lines within the state BJP unit, with both senior and junior MLAs attacking the decision of the state leadership over the Cabinet expansion.

While Vijayapura MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal accused Yediyurappa of succumbing to blackmail, legislators like M Satish Reddy and Arvind Belad questioned the parameters for selecting ministers, and accused the party leadership of sidelining youth leaders.

Several MLAs also expressed reservations over including MLCs as ministers, accusing Yediyurappa of inducting those who had lost the elections.

Reshuffle

By asking Nagesh to step down following graft allegations against him, Yediyurappa will now be able to reshuffle the Cabinet. According to sources, the CM has promised to look into requests of changing portfolios of a few ministers.

