

BSY, YATNAL CLASH OVER SON, FUNDS AT MEETING WITH MLAs

State BJP lodges complaint with high command against Vijayapura MLA

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CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa, who is holding a series of meetings with party MLAs to take them into confidence, advised party MLA from Vijayapura Basavaraj Patil Yatnal not to make allegations that cause embarrassment to the party and government.



You (Yatnal) give two different statements at Vijayapura and Bengaluru, causing damage to the party and government

BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

During the meeting, Yatnal is said to have accused Yediyurappa's son Vijayendra of interfering in the government.

At the meeting, attended by other MLAs too, Yatnal reportedly told Yediyurappa that everything has to come through Vijayendra, sources said.

He also said that as an MLA, he could talk to Yediyurappa directly about his grievances, and spoke about the need to take senior party leaders into confidence.

The Chief Minister reportedly told Yatnal not to make such allegations. "You (Yatnal) give two different statements at Vijayapura and Bengaluru, causing damage to the party and government," Yediyurappa said.

He also told Yatnal that

nothing stops him from visiting Krishna or Cauvery.

When Yatnal alleged that grants were not given for his constituency, it irked the other MLAs, and Siddu Savadi and Kalakappa Bandi came to the CM's rescue.

Later, Yediyurappa explained that this year's financial status had been bad, with the State government struggling to provide funds for Covid care and flood victims. Funds were released for these two crises, and grants were not given for any MLA's constituency, he added.

This is not the first time that Yatnal is making controversial statements.

A few weeks ago, he had spoken on a change in guard and stated that Yediyurappa would not be chief minister for long, and that the party high command was looking for a replacement. After several BJP leaders demanded action against Yatnal, the state unit referred the issue to the central disciplinary committee.

On Monday, BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel told reporters that the party had complained against Yatnal.



BJP MLAs along with party state president Nalin Kumar Kateel wait to meet Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Monday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

MLAs seek ₹1,900 crore to Kalyana Karnataka Board

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"WE requested the CM to release the rest of the amount soon and to allocate ₹1,900 crore to KKRDB in this year's budget. We asked him to improve the Kalaburagi DCC Bank, which is running under loss for many years. We pointed out to him that the vacancies in different departments in Kalyana Karnataka region should be filled. We have also sought ₹100 crore as annual MLA grants for the development of our constituencies. We requested him for the completion of irrigation projects on time, and urged him to invite entrepreneurs to set up industries in the region, especially in Kalaburagi district," the Kalaburagi MLAs said.

BJP MLCs, however, were unhappy that the chief minister was meeting only the MLAs. "It looks like the chief minister wants to hear the grievances of only the MLAs as they are instrumental in making him the chief minister, while we don't have such powers. If he had called us, we would have also given our suggestions," said a BJP MLC, requesting anonymity.