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6 cabinet vacancies are back in focus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
5/11/20

Bengaluru: After Tuesday's bypolls, the topic of cabinet expansion has once again come into focus, with chief minister BS Yediyurappa saying that he has already discussed it with national BJP president JP Nadda.

"I have spoken to him and if required, I will visit Delhi to take things forward," Yediyurappa said. BJP functionaries said he had sought an appointment with the party high command and he would plan the Delhi trip after the results of the bypolls and Bihar assembly elections were announced on November 10.

Currently, six spots are open in Yediyurappa's cabinet. He has been waiting for the party go-ahead to appoint new ministers for the past three months. In September, he camped in Delhi for two

days, meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nadda.

The delay in expanding the cabinet has angered BJP MLCs TB Nagaraj, R Shankar and AH Vishwanath, who, along with 13 others, had helped Yediyurappa form the government last year by walking out of the Congress-JD(S) coalition. They were promised cabinet berths.

BJP's RR Nagar candidate, N Munirathna, who was part of this group, is also expecting a role in the government. His fate will be known on November 10. While campaigning in RR Nagar recently, Yediyurappa said Munirathna would be appointed as a minister if he won the bypoll. "Yediyurappa is caught between the high command and turncoats. He cannot take unilateral decisions and he cannot keep cabinet hopefuls waiting longer," said a senior BJP legislator.