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Five Ministers, Speaker dropped from CPI(M) list

33 new faces for Kerala election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and six of his Cabinet colleagues have been fielded by the ruling CPI(M) for the April 6 Assembly election. There are 33 new faces on the candidate list.

Party acting State secretary A. Vijayaraghavan on Wednesday released a list of 83 of its candidates, including nine CPI(M)-supported Independents. The party will announce the candidates for Manjeswaram and Devikulam later.

Health Minister K.K. Shylaja, Labour Minister T.P. Ramakrishnan, Power Minister M.M. Mani, Devaswom Minister Kadakkampally Surendran, Fisheries Minister J. Mercykutty Amma and Local Self-Govern-

ment Minister A.C. Moideen are trying their luck once again. Mr. Vijayan will contest from Dharmadam in Kannur district.

Not contesting

Thirty-three incumbent legislators will not contest this time. Five Ministers – T.M. Thomas Isaac, E.P. Jayarajan, C. Ravindranath, G. Sudhakaran and A.K. Balan – and Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan have been denied the ticket.

M.V. Govindan, K. Radhakrishnan, P. Rajeev and K.N. Balagopal are the State secretariat members who are contesting.

As many as 12 women and 4 youngsters below the age of 30 are among the candidates. Twenty-eight lawyers and 25 candidates below the age of 50 figure in the list.

