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**Race on for
Cabinet berths
ahead of rejig**

^{12/11/21}
BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP leadership's go-ahead for Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's Cabinet expansion has raised expectations among several ministerial aspirants. It has also left a few ministers anxious about their fate as a couple of them could be replaced to ensure better regional balance in the Cabinet.



Yediyurappa

Nadda to participate

Yediyurappa said BJP national president J P Nadda and BJP General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh will attend the swearing-in ceremony of new ministers.

The new ministers will likely be inducted on January 13 or 14, Yediyurappa told reporters.

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**Minister Nagesh confident
of continuing in Cabinet**

^{12/11/21}
BENGALURU, DHNS: Excise Minister H Nagesh dismissed reports of his exit from the state Cabinet as new ministers will be inducted in this week.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Nagesh said that there was no question of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa dropping him from the Cabinet, as the latter had assured him of a ministerial position for three years.

"I was a minister in the (Congress-JD-S) coalition government and was the first to resign after which two other Ministers R Shankar and MTB Nagaraj followed suit. My resignation was the turning point for the formation of (BJP) government," he said.

Nagesh said that he was confident that Yediyurappa

will not drop him. "The chief minister had asked me to trust him and assured that I will remain minister for the entire three-and-a-half-year tenure of the government. Based on that assurance, I resigned from the coalition government and supported the BJP government," he said.

The excise minister said the reports of his exit were 'shocking' while expressing confidence that he would be retained in the state Cabinet.

Reports of his exit emerged after Yediyurappa got approval by BJP high command to expand his Cabinet, following a meeting with Union Minister Amit Shah, BJP national president J P Nadda and, BJP general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh in New Delhi on Sunday evening.