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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 3/2/20

BJP slaps show-cause notice on Yatnal for his tirade against BSY

Firebrand Hindutva leader remains defiant

BENGALURU, DHNS

The BJP's central disciplinary committee has issued a show-cause notice to former union minister and Bijapur City legislator Basanagouda Patil Yatnal for his repeated censure of the B S Yediyurappa administration.

Yatnal has 15 days to respond to the notice, according to sources.

The notice states that Yatnal's statements caused embarrassment to the government as well as the party, and he has been asked to explain why disciplinary action

should not be initiated against him.

Known to be a hardline Hindutva firebrand, Yatnal has publicly chided Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa for his style of functioning and has claimed on several occasions that he will be removed from the top post.

A Lingayat strongman, Yatnal has attacked the government over its "neglect" of north Karnataka in terms of allocation of funds and has accused Yediyurappa's son and BJP vice-president BY Vijayendra of running a 'parallel government'.



Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

'I've done no wrong'

The BJP leader, however, remained defiant. "I've always spoken and fought for the truth," he told reporters. "I'm yet to receive the notice and I will respond appropriately. I have not done any anti-party activity and I haven't said anything against the central leaders."

Asked if he has been alien-

ated in the party, Yatnal said: "I'm a disciple of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He had said, if you have no one then you should move forward alone."

This is not the first time the BJP has pulled up Yatnal. In 2019, he was slapped with a show-cause notice after he blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Centre's delay in providing flood aid to Karnataka.

The BJP was forced to expel Yatnal twice — in 2010 and 2015 — for 'anti-party' activities. His first expulsion, for his sharp criticism of the party's affairs, took him to the JD(S). Yatnal returned to the BJP in 2013, but he was booted out two years later for contesting as a rebel candidate in the Legislative Council election, which he won.

There is speculation that the BJP might consider expelling Yatnal.