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BJP issues showcause notice to Yatnal for taking on BSY

The Vijayapura MLA is vocal in demanding leadership change in State, party disciplinary committee seeks his response within a week

@ Bengaluru

CRACKING the whip on senior party leader and former union minister Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, the BJP high command on Friday issued him a showcause notice seeking an explanation for his comments against party leaders in the state.

Sources said the central leadership decided to issue the notice as Yatnal continued to

make statements on change of leadership in the state and speak against Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, causing much embarrassment to the party. Despite being warned by party leaders, Yatnal had openly hit out at Yediyurappa on several occasions and had spoken about change in leadership, sources said.

Yatnal was complaining about not receiving sanctioned funds for development works

in his constituency, Vijayapura, and took potshots at the CM while saying discussions were

on within the party over change in leadership. Yatnal, a Lingayat strongman from Vijayapura, and known for his hardline Hindutva views, is seen as a very ambitious leader who has felt slight-

ed over not being given prominence in the State government. He, however, has denied having ministerial aspirations.

Yatnal's comments fuelled

speculations over leadership change in the state and many within the party had questioned why the party was not taking action against the MLA. Yatnal had also taken on the govern-

ment in the Assembly recently over demand from the Pancha-

masali community to be included under 2A category for reservation. The party central leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah and party general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Arun Singh, had put an end to speculations over leadership change by making it clear Yediyurappa will complete his tenure as CM.

The central leadership had also sought details about Yatnal's comments. Sources said

based on the information received from the state-unit of the party, disciplinary committee issued the notice seeking response from the MLA within a week. BJP State General Secretary and MLC N Ravi Kumar on Friday confirmed that the party has issued the showcause notice to the MLA.

Responding to the development, Yatnal said he is yet to receive the notice and he will respond after getting it.