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Advantage BJP as 10 council seats within its pocket in UP

NAMITA BAI PAI @ Lucknow 16/1/21 54

THE ruling BJP on Friday announced the names of four of its candidates for the upcoming biennial polls for 12 seats of the State Legislative Council falling vacant on January 30. "The central election committee of the BJP has approved the names of Swatantra Dev Singh, Dr Dinesh Sharma, Laxman Prasad Acharya, and Arvind Kumar Sharma," read a release issued by the BJP.

Swatantra Dev Singh is party's UP chief, while Dr Dinesh Sharma is one of the two Deputy Chief Ministers of the state. While the process of filing nomination papers for council polls is underway till January 18, the voting for

the dozen seats will take place on January 28. Counting of votes will be done one hour after the completion of polls.

The total strength of UP State Council is 100. Of the 100 members, 38 are elected by the MLAs, 36 by the representatives of local bodies, 8 from teachers' constituencies and eight from graduate constituencies.

The remaining 10 members are nominated to the upper

Independent support

Given the importance of the polls, three Independents — Kunda MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya, Aman Mani Tripathi from Maharajganj and Vinod Saroj from Pratapgarh may support BJP

house. The tenure of each member is six years.

Currently, the BJP has 32 members in UP state council. On the basis of its strength in the state assembly, the party is set to win at least 10 seats in. The other parties, including SP, BSP and Congress have 55, 8 and 2 members respectively in the upper house. While Samajwadi Party can win one seat, BSP and Congress are not in a position to get their candidates through as BSP has just 18 members in the Assembly, of whom six had rebelled during the last Rajya Sabha elections. Congress has seven, of whom two — Aditi Singh and Rakesh Pratap Singh — have already rebelled and sided with the BJP.