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పేపర్ నెంబర్ : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald తేదీ : DATE: 17/10/2019

Andhra govt empowers secretaries to sue media


AMARAVATI, DHNS: The Y S Jaganmohan Reddy government has decided to delegate powers to departmental secretaries to take legal action on defamatory news spread with malafide interest by media houses.

The state cabinet that met here on Wednesday, is learnt to have given green signal to a proposal mooted by information and public relations (I&PR) minister Perni Venkataramaiah.

Earlier, the power to file cases lay with the special commissioner to information and public relations department.

The present cabinet decision reverses the YS Rajasekhara Reddy government's 2007 order vesting the powers with the information and Public Relations special commissioner.

Sources said that the cabinet today agreed with the minister's view that "Certain print, electronic and social media are deliberately trying to tarnish the image of the government and government officials, by spreading false news with malafide interest".



Jaganmohan.