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## 43 of 61 newly elected RS MPs are first-timers

SHEMIN JOY NEW DELHI, DHNS

lmost three-fourth or 43 of the 61 leaders elected in the latest edition of elections to the Rajya Sabha are first-timers in the Upper House, including Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, BJP's Jyotiraditya Scindia and AI-ADMK's Thambi Durai.

Only 12 retiring members were re-elected while six MPs with past experience of the Upper House returned to Rajya Sabha after a gap.

Almost 72% of the MPs newly elected are first-timers, an analysis by a senior official in the Research Division of Rajya Sabha Secretariat showed.

Welcoming the new MPs,

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said on Saturday that the 61 newly elected MPs representing



Kharge

as many as 20 political parties besides independents highlight the diversity of our polity.

"The elected represent a healthy mix of veterans and first-timers to the House, all bound by solemn commitment to the transformation of our country and make the 21st century as India's," Naidu added.

There were 61 vacancies in 20 states and out of this, 42 were elected unopposed. Among the unopposed, the number of newcomers was 28.



Scindia

elected are first-timers. There were 28 candidates for these 19 seats of which 24 were nevermembers of Rajya Sabha.

Of the re-

maining 19

seats for which

elections were

held on Friday,

15 who are

"While the 61 retiring members have a total experience of 95 terms, the winners come with a total experience of only 32 terms resulting in decline in the total experience of 63 terms," the analysis showed.

Besides Kharge, Scindia and Thambi Durai, prominent leaders to enter Raiva Sabha for the first time also included Congress general secretary KC Venugopal and former Andhra Pradesh speaker K R Suresh Reddy (TRS).

Former prime minister Deve Gowda, JMM patriarch Shibu Soren and TMC MP Dinesh Trivedi are among 6 leaders who are re-entering Rajya Sabha after a gap.

Among the 12 sitting MPs who were re-elected include Deputy Chairman Harivansh, NCP chief Sharad Yadav, Union minister Ramdas Athawale, Congress' Digvijay Singh, TRS' Dr K Keshav Rao and DMK's Tiruchi Siva. A state-wise analysis showed that 4 members who retired from Karnataka had a total experience of 9 terms in Rajya Sabha while the new incumbents have experience of only one term.