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# Shah dials BSY, Lingayat OBC plan put on hold

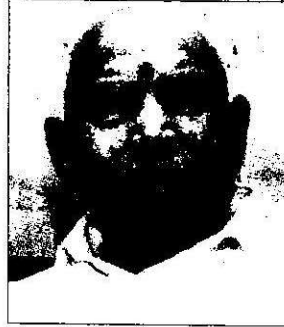
Will discuss quota  
in Delhi, Cabinet  
rejig soon, says  
Yediyurappa

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa agreed on Friday to defer a decision on including Veerashaiva-Lingayats in the central OBC list under pressure from his own Cabinet colleagues who warned against moving hurriedly on this subject.

But Yediyurappa's push for it, which was seen as an attempt to get the attention of the BJP central leadership, seemed to have worked as Union Home Minister Amit Shah got on the phone with him early in the morning.

Apparently, Yediyurappa expressed his ire with Shah over the top brass dragging its feet on approving Cabinet expansion, saying the delay was undermining the chief



B S Yediyurappa

minister's office.

"A decision on Veerashaiva-Lingayats will be taken after I visit Delhi. Even my Cabinet colleagues are of this view," Yediyurappa told reporters. Asked about his Cabinet expansion, he said: "I just spoke to Amit Shah. It will happen in two-three days. They will send (the list of new ministers)."

Yediyurappa cancelled his news conference, where he was expected to announce the decision to recommend to the Centre the inclusion of the Veerashaiva-Lingayats into the national OBC list. The deferment itself is being seen as



Amit Shah

a setback to Yediyurappa, who hails from this community that is traditionally identified as the BJP's core support base.

Veerashaiva-Lingayats, who are estimated to form 16% of the state's population, come under Category 3B with a 5% reservation based on income in Karnataka. Their inclusion into the national OBC will give them space in 27% reservation in Central government services and Central educational institutions.

Law Minister J C Madhuswamy said Yediyurappa was convinced that the government should go slow on this. "Only 16 sub-castes of

Rein in or  
replace BSY:  
State leaders

A section of leaders from Karnataka, including ministers, complained against CM B S Yediyurappa to party top brass in Delhi, urging them to rein in Yediyurappa or replace. The leaders met national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh and expressed their displeasure over the CM's style of functioning.

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Veerashaiva-Lingayats are considered OBC. The community should be treated as one. There are sub-castes in other communities that have been left out. We told the CM we should move a holistic proposal to recommend the status for all communities that have been left out," he explained.

Seer threatens protest, P6

# Section of state BJP asks top brass to rein in or replace CM

Complains to leadership about BSY's style of functioning

NEW DELHI, DHNS

A section of leaders from Karnataka, including ministers, has complained against Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to party top brass here, urging the leadership to rein in CM B S Yediyurappa or replace him in the interest of party and administration.

Some of the ministers and legislators, who arrived in national capital to attend the inauguration of the office of newly appointed BJP national general secretary C T Ravi on Friday, met national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh and expressed their displeasure against the CM's style of functioning, sources

in BJP told DH.

They also urged the party top brass to advise the CM to take all the leaders into confidence before taking any decision. A few leaders went a step ahead and demanded that CM be replaced, considering his age factor.

Some leaders also complained against the family members of the CM over their frequent 'interference' in administration, sources said.

Ministers Laxman Savadi, Jagadish Shettar, Ramesh Jarkiholi, R Ashoka and Kota Srinivas Poojary among others attended the event held at the BJP Headquarters.

However, none of ministers or leaders were ready to confirm their meeting with party top brass.

## Delay in Cabinet expansion leaves aspirants fuming

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJPMI CsMTB Nagaraj, A H Vishwanath and R Shankar made their disgruntlement public and mounted pressure on Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to induct them as ministers as soon as possible.

"It's already late. He should include us in the Cabinet as soon as possible," Nagaraj told reporters, after being part of a delegation of elected representatives and seers from the Kuruba community that met Yediyurappa. They demanded the establishment of a corporation for Kurubas.

Noting that the resignation of 16 MLAs - which included four from Kuruba

community - had led to the formation of BJP government, Nagaraj said that the CM should have made them ministers by now. "It is already late. You should expand the Cabinet now and provide justice for the community," he said.

Yediyurappa was trying to expand the Cabinet, he said, responding to questions. "We are not objecting to the inclusion of other BJP legislators in the Cabinet. He should make us ministers," Nagaraj said.

Shankar said that though Yediyurappa has been assuring them of Cabinet expansion every time he met them, it was yet to be realised. "We are confident of being included in the Cabi-

net. If the BJP central leadership wills it, expansion can be done in a day," he said.

Vishwanath noted that four legislators from Kuruba community had joined the BJP last year. "While one has been accommodated in the Cabinet, we are confident that Yediyurappa will include the remaining three," he said.



Mount pressure on Centre for funds, BSY tells MPs

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa requested BJP MPs to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman seeking additional funds for projects in Karnataka, here on Friday.

Progress of various central government projects being implemented in Karnataka was also reviewed during the meeting of MPs that Yediyurappa chaired.

Speaking to DH, Bagalkot MP P C Gaddigoudar said that Yediyurappa urged the MPs to petition the Centre seeking funds for developmental activities in Karnataka. "He recalled his efforts to get more funds from the Centre and requested us to pile pressure on Union Ministers for the purpose," he said. Sources said that the government also sought advice for the list of projects required in Karnataka, so as to send a memorandum to the Centre ahead of the next budget.