

Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY

Ex-Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh,
Leader, YSR Congress Legislature Party,
A.P. Legislative Assembly,
PRESIDENT, YSR CONGRESS PARTY.



Date: 21st March, 2025

Respected,
Shri. Narendra Modi ji,

Subject - Request for the delimitation exercise to be conducted in such a manner that no State would have to endure any reduction in its representation in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, in terms of its share in total no. of seats in the house.

Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing this letter to you to seek your indulgence in a matter that is of utmost importance for the entire Nation. A matter that has the potential to have a far reaching impact on not only the political representation of some of the States in the policy and law making process in the Country but to also affect the deep sentiments of vast sections of the Country's population. Sir, in the light of this, I strongly emphasize the need for extreme caution while initiating the delimitation exercise. I request your kind attention to the following.

The 84th Constitutional amendment has extended the already existing Constitutional embargo for the delimitation process. The embargo would come to an end in the year 2026, in accordance with the Constitutional amendment. Furthermore, the process of Census that was scheduled to take place in 2021 was delayed owing to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is widely known that the Census process is likely to be complete by 2026. The Constitutional framework mandates the readjustment of the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies after the Census exercise and in the light of the fact that the

Constitutional embargo would come to an end, the conclusion of the Census exercise in 2026 would inevitably be followed by a delimitation process. This assumption has caused severe anxiety for several States, Southern States in particular, who fear that their representation would be diminished.

The widespread concern emanates from the imbalance that continues to persist with respect to the outcomes of the population control exercise in different States. The apparent objective of the 42nd and 84th Constitutional amendments in freezing the allocation of seats, is the hope that over time all the States would be able to demonstrate similar levels of success with respect to the family planning exercise and the inter-se States' shares of the Country's population would be restored to the 1971 levels. However, with the Census numbers of 2011 and the other estimates of the decadal growth of population in the States, this doesn't seem to be the case. The share of the Southern States in the Country's population has reduced over the 40-year period between 1971 and 2011. We believe that the share has reduced even further over the last 15-year period. This reduction in share has resulted from the sincerity of the Southern States in implementation of the population control programme, which was a National priority.

Indian population (in 1000s)				
State/Union Territory	1971 Census		2011 Census	
	Population	%	Population	%
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	115	0.02%	381	0.03%
Andhra Pradesh	27,685	5.05%	49,387	4.08%
Telangana	15,818	2.89%	35,194	2.91%
Karnataka	29,299	5.34%	61,095	5.05%
Kerala	21,347	3.89%	33,406	2.76%
Tamil Nadu	41,199	7.52%	72,147	5.96%
Puducherry	472	0.09%	1,248	0.10%
Southern States Population Share		24.80%		20.88%


Sir, I draw your attention to the potential for significant erosion of Southern State's participation in National policy making and legislative process if the delimitation process is conducted on the basis of the States' population as it stands today. While I am thankful for the Hon'ble Union Home Minister's assurance that delimitation exercise will be undertaken mindful of need to

ensure proportionate increase of seats for all States, I wish to point out to a Constitutional impediment to such a relaxation.

Article 81(2)(a) of the Constitution of India reads as follows,

'there shall be allotted to each State a number of seats in the House of the people in such a manner that the ratio between that number and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, be the same for all the States'.

Sir, if it is imperative that ratio be maintained as warranted by the Constitutional provision, then it would come in the way of fulfilment of the Hon'ble Union Home Minister's assurance. I therefore emphasize the need to amend the Constitution to give effect to such proportionate increase in seats for each State. This would ensure that no State would have to encounter any reduction in its representation in the House of the People, in terms of the share of the seats allocated to that State in the total seats. Sir, I humbly seek your support in this regard. Given the gravity of the issue, that has the potential to disrupt the social and political harmony in the Country, your leadership and guidance at this crucial juncture is most vital. Sir, an assurance from your end, would contribute greatly in allaying the fears of several States.

With Warm Regards .


Yours faithfully,


(Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy)

To
Shri Narendra Modi Ji,
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi-110011.