

Need to ensure equitable delimitation process in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI D. M. KATHIR ANAND (VELLORE): Sir, the Delimitation Act, 2002 had freezed the total number of constituencies in both the Parliament and the State Assemblies and maintained the *status quo* till 2026. This was done mainly as the States, which had implemented family planning, widely, like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Punjab, would stand to lose many parliamentary seats, and the States, which have not implemented family planning programs like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, would gain more seats.

I rise to draw the attention of this House to a matter of grave concern that threatens the federal spirit of our democracy. The impending delimitation exercise, which disproportionately penalizes progressive States like Tamil Nadu, is rewarding those States which have failed to control their population in the last three decades. The Union Government's approach to delimitation is not clear, and it disregards the sustained efforts of Tamil Nadu in population control, economic growth and equitable development.

While doing the reorganization of Lok Sabha constituency seats based on the current population, there is a possibility of a loss of seats in Tamil Nadu. The Union Government has no clarity or any assurance regarding this issue so far. Tamil Nadu, under the Dravidian model rule, has been the most successful State in implementing effective family planning policies and ensuring socio-economic process.

Naam iruvar, namakku iruvar, that is, 'We Two, We Need Two' till 1990s and, at present, *naam iruvar, namakku oruvar*, that is, 'We two, We Need One' has been the approach of the Government for birth control in the State of Tamil Nadu. As a result, the population growth in Tamil Nadu has significantly been controlled compared to the northern States. Insisting population figures only for delimitation is totally unfair and injustice to Tamil Nadu.

It is my humble request that in the delimitation process, the Government should consider the performance of the States in respect of vital indices like GSDP, per capita income, GER, doctors, hospitals and medical infrastructure, energy

generation, road infrastructure, agriculture productivity, export earnings and overall achievements, and not the population statistics alone.

One of the fundamental ideas of our Constitution is the cooperative federalism. We, the people of Tamil Nadu, have been fighting for years to establish the rights of Tamil Nadu and protect the interests of the Tamil people.

The recent all-party Resolution passed by our hon. Chief Minister, urging the Centre to adhere to the 1971 Census for delimitation, is a testament of the State's united opposition to this unfair move. The Union Government must respect the voice of the people and of the States that have worked diligently for national progress. It should not impose a one-size-fits-all approach that undermines Tamil Nadu's rightful stand in the Indian Union.*(Interruptions)* Delimitation should not become a secret weapon to weaken the progressive States that are contributing immensely to the country's progress.*(Interruptions)*

The Union Government should ensure a fair and equitable representation of MPs and MLAs for all the States in the Parliament and the State Assemblies to uphold the federal spirit of the Constitution.*(Interruptions)*

To address this issue, we must extend the freeze on delimitation for at least 30 more years, ensuring that States are not penalized for their good governance and responsible population policies. Thank you.*(Interruptions)*