

Need to ensure implementation of equitable delimitation process in Tamil Nadu and other southern states.-laid

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government the upcoming delimitation exercise that threatens to systematically undermine the political representation of southern states like Tamil Nadu in this House. For decades, Tamil Nadu and other southern states have been responsible and forward-thinking in implementing population control measures, as encouraged by the Union Government itself. Now, we are being punished for our success. The Union Home Minister claims that southern states will not "lose" seats. If the freeze on population-based delimitation is lifted, states that failed to control their population will be rewarded with disproportionate political power, while states like Tamil Nadu will see their voices weakened. This will leave Tamil Nadu and the entire south politically sidelined, with minimal influence in national decision-making. It will turn us into spectators in a democracy where our contributions—economic, social, cultural—far exceed the representation we will be granted. The South won't remain silent while our representation is systematically eroded. We will not accept anything less than a fair, transparent, and equitable delimitation process. So, the Union Government must immediately clarify the basis of delimitation and assure Tamil Nadu and the southern states that they will not be relegated to second-class political entities.