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title: Need to issue a clarification regarding increase in number of seats in Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh before 2019 elections.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE) : Section 26 to AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 deals with delimitation of Assembly Constituencies in AP and Telangana. Section 26(1) says :

"Subject to the provisions contained in article 170 of the Constitution.....the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the successor States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana shall be increased from 175 and 119 to 225 and 153, respectively, and delimitation of the constituencies may be determined by the Election Commission...."

On a plain reading of the above Section, it becomes clear that Assembly Constituencies would be increased subject to article 170 of the Constitution. Proviso to sub-clause (3) to article 170 says :

"Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State...."

This makes it abundantly clear that article 170 prevents such exercise till the results of 2026 Census. However, there is an impression in political circles in Andhra Pradesh that the number of Assembly constituencies would be increased before 2019 elections.

Hence, I request the Government of India to issue clarification as to what section 26 means.