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FOUNDATION for DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

**29th November, 2026**

**Shri Narendra Modi**
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Room No. 148 B,
South Block, Raisina Hill
New Delhi – 110001

***Esteemed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji,***

I congratulate the Union Government and the major political parties for building a national consensus on increasing the strength of Lok Sabha while retaining and freezing the proportion of seats allocated to each state in the Lok Sabha. This is a commendable decision that strengthens our federalism and simultaneously addresses the legitimate apprehensions of southern and smaller States that their successful efforts at population stabilisation should not result in a loss of parliamentary representation.

From the reports available, it appears that the Bill to be debated in the Parliament proposes to increase the Lok Sabha strength to 850, proportionately increase the allocation of seats to each state at current ratio, and freeze the number of seats allocated to each state until the year 2051. Such an allocation reflects the broad national consensus and federal spirit of the country and is a testament to our democratic decision making process.

However, I wish to draw your kind attention to one inadvertent but consequential aspect of the proposed framework - the Draft 132nd Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2026 seems to also freeze the new boundaries of the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies within a state until 2051. This provision will disrupt the routine delimitation of boundaries of constituencies reflecting demographic changes and urban migration. Freezing the number of Lok Sabha seats allocated to each state need not stop adjusting constituency boundaries within the state in keeping with

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demographic changes. These are two fundamentally different questions and, in my view, must be treated separately.

India is in the process of rapid urbanization in the next three decades. Urban share of our population stood at 27.81% in 2001, and increased to 31.16% in 2011. The Union MOHUD estimates that our urban population now is about 36%. Relying on the 2011 census for the current delimitation exercise means that the urban representation would be 265. However, the estimates of MOHUD indicate that the urban population in 2026 is about 36%. The urban representation now should therefore be 306 seats out of 850. This means a deficit of **41 Lok Sabha seats**. Hence, with the existing technology and digitisation, it should be easy to utilise the 2026 census data for the current delimitation exercise. However, the bigger issue lies in the future.

Population projections indicate that by 2050 the urban share of the population would be 50% according to MOHUD, and 57% according to the World Bank. If the constituency boundaries are fixed based on the 2011 census, and are frozen until 2051, urban areas will be grossly underrepresented. By 2050, such underrepresentation can be equivalent to **220 Lok Sabha seats**. Therefore, such a freeze of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituency boundaries during a period of rapid urbanization is not at all conducive to the health of our democracy and serves no political or national purpose.

As Indian democracy matures, the representation of urban populations must increase in proportion to their demographic share, not diminish. Urban voters are more likely to measure the performance of the governments and elected representatives and vote accordingly. They are also less likely to be influenced by inducements or caste and other divisive impulses, and are more likely to focus on public services delivery, infrastructure and basic amenities, and economic growth and quality of life. Hence, political weightage to urban voters in proportion to their population will be conducive to economic growth, healthy democracy and accountable governance.

I therefore urge you to use your good offices to provide for the following:

1. **Use the latest published Census figures available at the time of delimitation,** as far as practicable, rather than automatically relying on the 2011 Census.
2. **Preserve the freeze on inter-State allocation of Lok Sabha seats until 2051**, ensuring that every State retains its existing relative share of parliamentary representation.
3. **Restore intra-State delimitation of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly constituencies**, every decade, based on the latest published Census figures, while retaining the freeze on the total number of seats allocated to each State.

The enclosed note explains the rationale for regular adjustment of constituency boundaries after every census, while freezing the number of seats allocated to each state.

*With warm personal regards,*



**Jayaprakash Narayan**
General Secretary, FDR

**Enclosure:**

- Note on Retaining Intra-State Delimitation While Preserving Each State's Share of Lok Sabha Representation

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