

Regarding Caste Census-laid

SHRI D. M. KATHIR ANAND (VELLORE): The census data has always been the bed rock of policy making and targeted interventions for socio economic development. With caste historically being a determination to the prospects of social progress in Indian society, it was essential that factual data on it was made available in public domain. The last caste census was conducted in 1931.

Though the demographic and socio-economic landscape of the country has changed in the past nine decades, underprivileged sections of the society continued to remain backward in spite of numerous past policy actions. Hence, it is vital that contemporary data derived from a common standard process at the national level is cumulated to address all the pressing issues related to social justice, equity and inclusivity.

Our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thalpathy M.K. Stalin has written to Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting integration of caste census with decadal census. Only such an integrated census at the national level, could provide comprehensive and reliable data on the caste composition of the society and its reflection of socio-economic indicators.

Hence, a statutory Census of India, with critical caste related data inputs, would be able to provide an appropriate platform for upholding social justice. This would enable evidence-based policymaking and ensure equitable and inclusive development.

Therefore, I urge upon Union Government to conduct the caste census and integrate it with the decadal census which is due since 2021.