

PRESS RELEASE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalithaa had written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 14th July, 2013, strongly urging the Government of India to take all possible steps to bring pressure to bear upon the Sri Lankan Government not to take any steps to repeal or even dilute the 13th Amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution in any manner. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had also requested the Government of India to ensure that the process of democratic decentralization, which is integral to the survival of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, is in no way jeopardised and stated that this should eventually lead to the Tamils of Sri Lanka realising their legitimate aspirations. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had called upon the Government of India to take a decisive and bold stand in support of the much discriminated against and long suffering Tamil minority in Sri Lanka.

In response to the Hon'ble Chief Minister's letter, the Hon'ble Prime Minister responded by a letter dated 16th July, 2013. The text of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's letter is reproduced below:

"Thank you for your letter of 14 July regarding developments in Sri Lanka on possible changes to the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution.

There is absolutely no change in Government of India's stand on the question of reconciliation and devolution of political powers in Sri Lanka. We have long advocated the creation of an environment in Sri Lanka in which all communities, particularly the Sri Lankan Tamils, are masters of their own destiny within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. We will continue to work towards this end".

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