

Shri. S. Jaipal Reddy's Speech in Lok Sabha on the day the Telangana bill was passed

It is a demand that has been raised recurrently for the last 60 years) therefore, I do not think any demand for a separate State in the history of the country has had such long duration and a tense feeling. Today, on this extremely pious and joyous occasion, we are all finding ourselves amidst the scenes of disorder is something that is surprising and painful.

May I tell you, friends, hon. Members, this demand was conceived by UPA as early as in 2004 when the Common Manifesto of UPA was formed. It was also committed in the President's Address delivered in 2004. I am asking Andhra friends as to what they were doing. Were they sleeping like kumbakarnas all these years? Therefore, I wish to tell Sushmaji, while thanking her for the opening lines of support, that she should not be finding any situation to blame the Congress Party.

The Congress Party has been preparing the ground for this grand occasion. You are saying that they are doing it to score points on the eve of election. May I recall, Madam (Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meena Kumari, here after referred to as Madam), that the decision for Telangana was taken on 9th December, 2009. Was there election at that time? What were the Ministers from the Seemandhra Region in the UPA Government doing? Did they protest? Why are you now finding it so expedient to protest?

BJP has been supporting the demand for Telangana for the last 45 years. I may tell the House that I was first elected in 1969 under 'two bullocks' symbol. I am one of those original Congressmen.

May I tell you that the Telangana agitation was started in 1969. The BJP's previous incarnation Bharatiya Jan Sangh supported Telangana then. It is supposed to be supporting all along. When I hear the dissenting voice of Advani ji, an elder statesman not only of the BJP but also of the country, I am shocked.

Therefore, at any rate I am grateful to Shrimati Sushma ji at least at a personal level for her opening lines of support. I wish to congratulate the Communist Party of India which originally stood for integrated State, which is today running a newspaper called 'Vishalandhra' yet is supporting the Telangana demand.

All this wonderful achievement today has been made possible because of the resolve and commitment of one person, one lady, that is, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. I have worked with Sonia Gandhi ji so intimately for the last 15 years. She is global in her outlook. She can never be against the interests of the people of Seemandhra region.

I wish to say here on behalf of the people of Telangana, we shall not, in a separate Telangana State,

discriminate against any person of Seemandhra Region. We know full well, at the end of the day, we are all Telugu people. We are all Indians. At the end of the day, we are all governed by the Indian Constitution

On this occasion, I would like to reiterate my thanks to Madam Sonia Gandhi, and I want to assure the people of Seemandhra Region that on the day, if anybody will be discriminated against in Hyderabad City, I would be the first to bow my head. I am not going to last forever. For the period, which is still spared for me, I shall commit myself to the protection of friends of Seemandhra Region.

Thank you very much.