

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 19.4.2012 addressed by Selvi J Jayalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Dr.Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below: -

"The Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security that was held on 16th April, 2012, ended on a note of optimism for the State Governments with the promise of the Ministry of Home Affairs agreeing to step back in areas concerning Public Order and the Police. I am sure that the meaningful discussions will be faithfully recorded and action taken in a manner consistent with the sentiments expressed by the Chief Ministers.

In the context of the Conference, I wish to highlight an issue concerning the amendments to the BSF Act, 1968. This item was contained in the Supplementary Agenda notes that reached us only on the day of the Conference. Hence my views expressed at the Conference did not carry my State's response to this matter.

I wish to categorically register my disapproval of the manner in which the subject was sought to be introduced as a supplementary agenda item. The members of the Rajya Sabha had, as early as on the 29th March, 2012, requested that the subject be discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers. With more than two weeks at their disposal, I am surprised that the Ministry of Home Affairs had proposed this as a supplementary agenda item. The provisions of the proposed amendments to the BSF Act smack of a desire to smuggle in a mechanism inspired by the same goals as those behind the setting up of an operations division in the NCTC, through the back door.

It was heartening to note that, based on my request, you directed the Union Home Minister to convene a separated meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss matters concerning the NCTC on 5th May, 2012. Since the amendments proposed to the BSF Act seem to have a similar motive, it would be appropriate if these are also discussed at the same Conference. I also request that no further action on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha may be taken, till the views of the Chief Ministers are heard and the way forward, finalized. I look forward to an early reply in the matter.

Issued by : Director of Information & Public Relations, Chennai – 9.

Date : 20.4.2012