

Text of D.O letter dated 28.12.2012 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: -

"I learn from reliable sources that there is a renewed move to set up the NCTC (National Counter Terrorism Centre) under the Home Ministry. I am sure that you will recall the views expressed by several Chief Ministers, including myself, against the NCTC emerging as a single point of control for counter terrorist measures, at the special conference convened for this purpose, under your Chairmanship in May 2012.

The proposal for the setting up of a single point of control under the Home Ministry for all anti-terrorist measures was objected to, by almost all the State Chief Ministers. Co-ordination and not control was considered to be the right way forward. For this, the present system of a multi agency centre at Delhi interacting with the subsidiary multi agency centres at the level of the States was considered to be working well. Further, the establishment of an operations division under the NCTC with the powers of arrest and seizure and armed with the freedom to operate independent of the State Police was a proposal completely unacceptable to even the Chief Ministers of Congress ruled states. The present move seems to be an extension of the ill advised steps taken by the Home Ministry earlier.

Chief Ministers of States have their feet firmly on the ground and are in direct touch with ground realities on a day to day basis. Hence the views expressed at the Conference by many of us need to be given due attention and be incorporated into any mechanism that is desired to be set up as a nodal agency at the Central Government. I would like to emphasize that any institution that is set up should only be a nodal Central agency which will interact with a nodal agency at the State level for sharing of intelligence. Action in the form of counter terrorist operations is better left to the State Police to perform. For this a Rapid Action Counter Terrorist Force should be created in every State, to function under the nodal State agency. The flow of funds from the Centre for this effort should be liberal so as to enable State agencies to be equipped with modern means of communication and fire power.

The above points were made by me at the Conference and are being repeated in this letter to ensure that the Central Government follows the right course of action. In this context I also wish to recall another point made at that Conference; that further action with regard to the setting up of the NCTC will be taken only in consultation with the States. It appears that these commitments are all being thrown to the winds when it comes to the point of considering the views of State Chief Ministers before finalizing policy in the Ministries of the Union Government. The situation has deteriorated to such a level that today the views of the Chief Ministers are not even heard, let alone be considered for policy making.

The indifferent treatment meted out to Chief Ministers at the National Development Council meeting held yesterday (27.12.2012) is one such instance. I had to cut short my speech in the middle because of so-called time regulation which stifled the opportunity to express one's views fully. The other Chief Ministers and I came to Delhi to state the field situation and bring a sense of realism and fairness to the process of plan preparation. Instead we acquired the impression that the intention was to cow us down with a display of might by the Central Government. I do hope your office will give necessary directions to the Ministries to conduct such plenary conferences where State Chief Ministers are invited, in a more polite and dignified manner, at least in future.

I wish to conclude by reminding you of the strong opposition already expressed by State Chief Ministers to the setting up of the NCTC in the manner planned by the Home Ministry and request you to communicate to us the draft of any proposal that may be prepared for setting up an institution at the national level to combat terrorism. The finalisation of any such initiative may be done only after completing the process of consultation with the States."

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