

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY's Speech in LOK SABHA on ANDHRA PRADESH REORGANIZATION BILL, 2014 dated Tuesday, February 18, 2014 / Magha 29, 1935 (Saka)

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. 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.

The decision for Telangana was taken on 9th December, 2009. 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? The Telangana agitation was started in 1969. The BJP's previous incarnation Bhartiya Jan Sangh supported Telangana then. It is supposed to be supporting all along.

I wish to congratulate the Communist party of India which originally stood for integrated state, but now is supporting the Telangana demand. All this wonderful achievement today has been made possible because of the resolve and commitment of one person, one, that is the UPA Chairperson. I wish to say here on behalf of people of Telangana, we shall not, in a separate Telangana State, discriminate against any person of Seemandhra Region.