

RAJ BHAVAN PRESS RELEASE

There is a need to express a sense of gratitude to the people of Tamil Nadu for their alertness on critical issues that come up in social discourse from time to time. One of the recent issues that is claiming the attention of the people in politics and in the media is the action of Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, to seek a meeting of the District officials of Coimbatore. The purpose of the said meeting was to seek a first-hand input about various welfare and developmental schemes and programmes and their implementation. Certain sections of the society in Tamil Nadu found this effort as something that is to be welcomed, while others found the action of the Governor as not in conformity with the constitutional provisions and conventions. Those who did not appreciate the Governor's action felt that he was stepping beyond the constitutional limits within which a Governor is supposed to act.

Most unfortunately, few of the critics also felt that the Governor had a political agenda and that he was acting at the behest of the Central Government, given the current political context in which the State of Tamil Nadu finds itself. This part of the criticism is absolutely wrong and false and based on the figment of imagination. As for other areas of criticism, particularly regarding constitutionality of the Governor's action, it must be stated here unequivocally that right after he took oath of office of Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Banwarilal Purohit said without mincing words that he would act in complete consonance with the Constitution of India and its provisions. This statement of the Governor was widely reported by the media. The Governor also stated that his actions would be guided by the Constitution, and that he would preserve and protect the Constitution; All the decisions which he would be taking, small or big, there would be no political consideration and all the decisions would be on merit and added that he would wholeheartedly support the state Government as far as development activities were concerned and would see to it that a lot of development takes place and more funds are provided to Tamil Nadu.

Though he was sure about the legality and correctness of his action, Thiru Purohit sought a legal opinion from one of the leading legal experts to have a proper examination of his action - from legal as well as constitutional perspectives. Equipped with that detailed opinion, Thiru. Purohit asserts that none of his actions in seeking a meeting with the District officials in Coimbatore amounts to any illegality or unconstitutionality. There was no attempt to short-circuit the official channels or force a meeting. Everything was done according to the norms and the meeting gave the Governor a good idea of the status of various welfare and developmental schemes and programmes in the District of Coimbatore.

Even when he was the Governor of the State of Assam prior to taking over as the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Purohit had conducted similar meetings in most Districts of that State much to everybody's appreciation. While conducting such meetings, the Governor never violated any law or the Constitution. These meetings helped Thiru. Purohit in getting first-hand knowledge of the developmental needs and problems faced by people at the grass root level which facilitated him in reflecting the same to the Government of India and thereby enabling him to avail more funds to fulfill the needs and aspirations of the people. Thiru. Purohit will continue such efforts in Tamil Nadu also to fulfill his responsibilities as envisaged in the Oath he has taken to devote himself in the service and well-being of the people of Tamil Nadu. Because the Governor's action is as per the law and the Constitution, many Ministers in the Government of Tamil Nadu have appreciated and supported his effort. At no place does the Constitution stop the Governor from seeking any such meeting. The purpose in seeking such meetings is not to subvert the authority of the State Government, but to support their efforts in good governance. In our Constitution, there is no bar on the Governor's action in seeking an appropriate connect with the people of the State to be in their service and enhance their well - being.

As already stated by him, after assuming office as Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Purohit affirms that he will abide by the Constitution in letter and spirit. He will always strive to uphold the dignity of the Office of the Governor. He prays to the Almighty that the State of Tamil Nadu reaches pinnacle of glory in the times to come.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai
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Principal Secretary to Governor