

**R.N. Ravi**



**RAJ BHAVAN,  
Chennai-600 022.**

D.O. Letter No.0014/RBTN/2023

Dated: 29.06.2023

Dear Chief Minister,

You may refer to my D.O. Letter No.0013/RBTN/2023 of today (29.06.2023) regarding the status of Thiru V.Senthil Balaji. In this regard I have been advised by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs that it would be prudent to seek the opinion of the Attorney General also. Accordingly, I am approaching the Attorney General for his opinion. Meanwhile, the order of dismissal of the minister Thiru V.Senthil Balaji may be kept in abeyance until further communication from me.

*Regards,*

*R.N. Ravi*  
**(R.N:RAVI)**

To  
Thiru M.K.Stalin,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai – 600 009.

**R.N. Ravi**



**RAJ BHAVAN,  
Chennai-600 022.**

D.O. Letter No.0013/RBTN/2023

Dated: 29.06.2023

Dear Chief Minister,

You may refer to my letter dated 31.05.2023 addressed to you. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Y.Balaji V, Karthik Desari and Another SLP (Crl) 12770 – 12781 of 2022 vide its Judgement dated 16.05.2023 made a series of scathing observations indicating serious misconducts by Minister Thiru V.Senthil Balaji including using the 'shield of office' for protecting himself from lawful consequences and obstructing the due process of law. The cases against Thiru V.Senthil Balaji are of corruption including cash for jobs and money laundering.

I wrote you the letter in this backdrop and recommended his removal from the Council of Ministers during the pendency of the Criminal proceedings against him in order to ensure the due process of law besides the call of Constitutional morality and conscience.

Instead of taking my advice in fair spirit, you responded with an inflammatory letter dated 01.06.2023 in which you instead of giving due consideration to my advice, used intemperate languages and accused me of overstepping my Constitutional limits. Your response disappointed me – to say the least.

Two weeks later you wrote me a letter dated 15.06.2023 recommending allocation of portfolios of Minister Thiru V.Senthil Balaji to other ministers citing the reason that Thiru V.Senthil Balaji was hospitalised for treatment and hence would not be able to discharge his ministerial responsibilities. You also conveyed that Thiru V.Senthil Balaji would continue a minister without portfolio. You did not mention the facts that Thiru V.Senthil Balaji was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on 14.06.2023 and that he was in judicial custody while undergoing treatment in a hospital though some of these facts were already in the public domain.

Since your letter did not mention important facts and circumstances leading to your recommendations to divest Thiru V.Senthil Balaji of his portfolios etc., I wrote you a letter on the same day (15.06.2023) asking for full facts. However, you refused to give the details asked for and wrote back a letter dated 15.06.2023 delivered to me on 16.06.2023 using unsavoury language and insisting on me to act without delay on your earlier letter of 15.06.2023.

Vide my letter dated 16.06.2023, I agreed to your recommendation regarding re-allocation of portfolios held by Minister Thiru V.Senthil Balaji to other two ministers, however, disagreed to Thiru V.Senthil Balaji continuing as a minister in the interest of fair investigation. However, to my dismay you refused to drop Thiru V.Senthil Balaji from the Council of Ministers and issued a Government Notification retaining him as a Minister without portfolio.

A few observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (Crl) 12770 – 12781 of 2022 reflecting the conduct of Thiru V.Senthil Balaji are extracted as under:

"44. But all that we could make out of the above timeline of events is that, trouble started for the Minister, even when he was a Minister in a different political dispensation and even before he became part of a group of 18 MLAs in August 2017. It must be remembered that the allegations in Criminal O.P.No. 7503 of 2016, disposed of by the High Court on 20.06.2016, were made at a time when he was still a Minister in the previous regime and it happened more than a year before he became part of a splinter group. In the order dated 20.06.2016, it was recorded as a contention of the Counsel for the petitioner in paragraph 6 that the police had seen to it that the name of the Minister did not figure in the complaint, in order to shield him. **That the Investigating Officer did not choose to include the offences under the P.C. Act from the year 2015 till 08.03.2021, cannot be taken to the credit of the prosecution. If the shield of office protected him from 2015 till he formed part of the splinter group and the shield stood temporarily removed for a brief period of time until he again became a Minister in the next regime, the same cannot be said to be case of political vendetta.** We do not know whether the complainants would have entered into a compromise in July 2021 if he had not become a Minister again in the new regime".

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in paragraph 45 of its earlier order dated 08.09.2022 in Criminal Appeal Nos. 1514-1516 of 2022 relating to

the case against Thiru V.Senthil Balaji had commented the following on the role and plight of the Investigating Officer (Police):

“The non-inclusion in the final report, the offences under the P.C. Act, the less said, the better. In the Counter affidavit filed by the Investigating Officer to the Writ Petition W.P.No. 9061 of 2021, filed by the non-selected candidates, the modus operandi adopted by the accused has been given in detail. We have provided a gist of the contents of such counter affidavit elsewhere in this judgement. We are constrained to say that even a novice in a criminal law would not have left the offences under the P.C. Act out of the final report. **The attempt of the Investigating Officer appears to be one “willing to strike but afraid to wound”.**

Even after repeated such observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court indicative of continuing disruptive influence of Thiru V.Senthil Balaji to the course of fair investigation and justice, you kept him a Minister which further emboldened him to intimidate and obstruct even the Central Investigating Agency – the Income Tax. The Income Tax officers conducted raid of the premises and persons associated with Thiru V.Senthil Balaji on 28.05.2023 during which supporters of Thiru V.Senthil Balaji prevented the raid from being conducted, physically assaulted and injured the income Tax Officers and snatched valuable documents from their custody. Situation worsened to an extent that the Income Tax officers had to seek protection and help of the CRPF as the local police did not adequately respond to the situation.

I am conscious of the fact that under ordinary circumstances, a Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

However, in the instant case your advice or to put it more appropriately your insistence to retain Thiru V.Senthil Balaji against my advice as a member of the Council of Ministers reflects your unhealthy bias.

There are reasonable apprehensions that continuation of Thiru V.Senthil Balaji as a Minister will continue to obstruct the due process of law and disrupt the course of Justice. Such a situation may eventually lead to breakdown of the Constitutional machinery in the State.

Under such circumstances and the powers conferred to me under Articles 154, 163 and 164 of the Constitution of India, I hereby dismiss Thiru V.Senthil Balaji from the Council of Ministers with immediate effect.

*Regard,*

*R.N.Ravi*  
(R.N.RAVI)

To  
Thiru M.K.Stalin,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai – 600 009.