

~~C.~~ RAJAGOPALACHARI

4272

60, BAZLULLAH ROAD
TYAGARAYANAGAR
MADRAS - 17

Permal

8th May 1964

My dear Jawaharlalji,

I am sure you have been making rapid improvement in your health and that you are now much better than when I last saw you.

I am making a specific appeal to you most earnestly hoping that you will see sound reason in it. Lal Bahadur wrote to me in reply to a letter from me to him that the 17th Amendment was intended to protect cultivating tenants. If really this is the object of the amendment, I feel, that instead of the legal monstrosity embodied in this amendment we can have a comprehensive law protecting cultivating tenants in large ryotwari land holdings and giving them every just security and protection. In 1952 I got an Act through the Madras Legislature for this very purpose giving security and protection to all the cultivating tenants in the Tanjore Ryotwari area. The same thing could be done giving security and protection to cultivating tenants throughout India in all Ryotwari areas instead of passing an Act defining all land as 'Zamindari Estate' and cumbrously over-ruling judicial decisions past and future.

I would request you if it is not an impertinence to put it to your Party whether they would prefer such a legislation as I have indicated above in preference to this 17th Amendment being reintroduced as the 19th Amendment. If you get the Party's free vote on this alternative I believe that it would be a great improvement on the present proposal to reintroduce the Amendment at a special session of Parliament.

Yours affectionately,

sd. xx

Sri Jawaharlal Nehru
New Delhi