

AIUDF terms State Population Policy as anti-poor



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Syed Miraz Ahmed 10 April 2017 9359 views

The All [India](#) United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has raised a strong protest with the declaration of the State [Health](#) & Family Welfare Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma while publishing the draft Population Policy indicating to disincentivise those with more than two children, which includes their participation in the government [as state](#) government employees illegal, besides making them ineligible to contest the [Panchayat](#) and Municipal Elections.

Speaking to the media Monday, AIUDF [President](#), Maulana Badruddin Ajmal said that such a step violates the fundamental [rights](#) of citizens and is highly undemocratic. “Birth of more than two children is mostly [found](#) among [Muslims](#), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and such an approach will affect them, depriving them from exercising their fundamental [rights](#),” he added.

Referring to the Sachar Committee Report, he said that the position of [Muslim](#) employees in government services is 11 per cent in 3rd and 4th Grade positions and hardly 1-2 per cent in administrative services, although it was decided during Hiteshwar Saikia’s regime to make rationalization in employment according to the population structure.

Maulana Ajmal said that RSS supremo, Mohan Madhukar Bhagawat is encouraging [Hindus](#) to bear more children and so is BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj according to whom Hindu women must produce at least 4 children to "protect" the religion. This is in contradiction to a BJP Minister's stance in Assam who is all up to infringe upon the [rights](#) of the poor with more than two offsprings. The BJP must explain its position whether it is with the RSS or Himanta Biswa Sarma?

AIUDF calls on BJP to drop the initiative while ensuring protection of fundamental, democratic and human [rights](#) to the citizens. He said that poverty and illiteracy are two main reasons for increase in population. "The government therefore, should work for the promotion of education and alleviation of poverty among [Muslims](#), SCs, STs and the backward classes. But, unfortunately it is not taking any effective measure in this regard," said Ajmal. He therefore, plans to launch a massive awareness program among them all on the issue of population.

Assuring that his party will counter the government's move in the [Parliament](#) and Assembly he confirmed that if required he will approach the High Court and the Supreme Court of [India](#) but will not let Himanta Biswa Sarma trample upon the fundamental [rights](#) of the poor people of Assam.

Syed Miraz Ahmed

Writes, edits and researches. In 2013 he was conferred the Rotary International District 3240 Young Achiever Award for his work in the area of environment and digital journalism. In 2006 he was awarded first in the category of Wildlife Photography by the Department of Environment & Forests and Tourism, Government of Assam.

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