

Hyderabad  
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## PRESS NOTE

Government of Telangana have decided to increase the number of districts from present 10 to 25, an increase of 150%. Forum for Good Governance feels that the decision is not need based and taken in hurry.

Prime Minister of India often says that for good administration there should be **“More governance and less government”**. Government of Telangana going a step further have introduced E-governance to avoid people running after the government offices for small works like obtaining certificates, land records etc. In Telangana it is reported that there are more number of mobile phones than the population. Vast improvement in communications coupled with E-governance has improved the working of the government, that being the case, there is no needing for additional districts more so a jump of 150%.

With the creation of new districts there will be new jobs at the cadre of (mostly) class IV and ministerial services. There are lakhs of unemployed youth waiting for jobs and any attempt to create jobs should be welcomed, but such employment should be in infrastructure, manufacturing, service sector tourism etc., which provide productive employment and efforts should be made to create jobs in such sectors and not in the administration of the government.

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After bifurcation, in many departments, there is less work. New 15 districts require many all India Service Officers which is hard to come. A situation may arise that we may have to put 2 districts under one collector and one S.P. What we need is more number of Agricultural Extension Officers, Engineers, Doctors, Teachers, Judges etc.

At present about 70 thousand crores are spent on administration mostly for salaries of employees. With the creation of 15 new districts, the wage bill will increase to one lakh crores per annum, which the state cannot afford. Added to it, the capital cost of construction of offices, staff quarters will need hundreds of crores. It is stated by the government that by increasing the districts the state will get more funds from Government of India which is not correct. There are certain guidelines through which central funds are distributed to states. In rare cases district is taken as a unit for releasing central funds. There may be some districts like Adilabad and Mahaboobnagar where creating new districts can be considered and not 15 districts in one go. In this regard we have submitted a representation to Chief Secretary to government, but so far no action has been taken.

Forum for Good Governance requests the government to come up with a white paper about the need for new districts, the additional cost etc. The present move of increasing the districts will only help real estate people, contractors and politicians. The people in general will have only fringe benefits from creation of new districts.

Yours Sincerely

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Secretary  
Forum for Good Governance