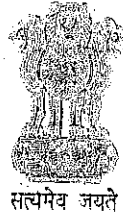


ARUN JAITLEY
Member of Parliament
Leader of Opposition
(Rajya Sabha)



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December 5, 2013

**The Secretary General,
Rajya Sabha,
Parliament House,
New Delhi-110001**

Sir,

The Minister for External Affairs Shri Salman Khurshid is seeking leave to introduce the Bill to amend the Constitution to give effect to acquiring of territories by India and transfer of certain territories to Bangladesh. This is numbered as the Constitution (One Hundred and Nineteenth) Amendment Bill, 2013. I oppose the introduction of this Bill. My opposition to this Bill is on the ground of legislative competence of the Indian Parliament to amend the Constitution and thereby alter the territories of India. The power to amend the Constitution is restricted by Article 368 of the Constitution. This implies that the basic structure of the Constitution cannot be altered. My opposition is based on the ground that post-1973 when the basic structure doctrine was introduced by the Supreme Court, the territory of India is an inherent part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Territory of India is a part of the Constitution. It cannot be reduced or altered by an amendment to the Constitution.

I may be given permission to oppose the introduction of this Bill.

Yours truly,


(Arun Jaitley)