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 Cabinet Minister for Commerce, Law & Justice (1990-91)  
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Thiru MK Stalin,  
 Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,  
 Chief Minister's Office Secretariat,  
 Chennai—600009

1st December 2022

**Subject: Government Takeover and Control of Hindu Temples and Religious  
 Institutions in the State of Tamil Nadu**

Dear Thiru Stalin,

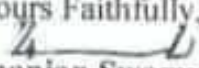
I write this letter to bring to your attention the plight of Hindu temples and Religious Institutions in the State of Tamil Nadu, due to long years of control of the Government and the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department (“HRNCE”), which is against Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India.

In 2014, I had successfully argued a case before the Hon’ble Supreme Court, wherein the Tamil Nadu Government was the Respondent. In its landmark judgment, reported as *Subramanian Swamy v State of Tamil Nadu, (2014) 5 SCC 75*, the Supreme Court declared that no religious functions of a temple can be taken over by any government. If there is financial mismanagement in a temple, the financial and connected secular activities of the temple can be taken over to remedy the financial mismanagement, but only be for a limited period.

In this regard I draw your attention to **Paragraphs No. 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68** of the said judgment, which settle the issue with ample clarity.

I, therefore, bring to your notice that the State Government has to comply with the ruling of the Hon’ble Supreme Court and thus free Hindu temples and Religious Institutions from the control of the State Government.

As Chief Minister you are required to take the said action to free temples immediately, failing which I am entitled to take legal proceedings against the Government of Tamil Nadu in the nature of Contempt of the Supreme Court.

Yours Faithfully,  
  
 Dr Subramanian Swamy