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# Govt defends move to form caste bodies

Says Setting Up Welfare Boards Not A Poll Tactic

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** The state government has defended the decisions to form development boards and corporations for the Lingayat, Maratha, Brahmin and Arya Vysya communities, saying that it exercised its constitutional powers under Article 162 of the Constitution. It asserted that these were policy measures, and not an election strategy.

## POLITICS & POLICY

PILs filed in the Karnataka high court have questioned the establishment of multiple community development bodies. In a common statement of objections, the government said that the communities for which boards or corporations had been created fell in the categories of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes or economically weaker section. It added that it was the best authority to formulate policies for citizens' welfare, keeping in mind factors such as social status, education levels and cultural and economic background.

"The establishment of the



## Panel to study Sadashiva report

Social welfare minister B. S. Sriramulu said on Wednesday that the government would form a cabinet sub-committee to study the Justice AJ Sadashiva Commission's recommendations on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes. "Once the committee submits its report, let us discuss it in the house. I will talk to the chief minister on this," Sriramulu told the legislative council.

corporations/development boards must be seen as a part of the holistic interventions of a welfare state for focused initiatives to uplift the socio-economic status of the poor and downtrodden," the government said.

It rejected allegations

**POLICY MOVE:** Yediyurappa government has created boards for many communities in the past few months

that the boards were created to win votes in the upcoming bypolls in the Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency and Basavakalyan and Maski assembly segments, describing the petitions in the court as politically motivated.

The government said that it was not right to view every initiative as an election tactic and that many other community boards and corporations had been constituted in the past 15 years. It cited the examples of the Karnataka Christian Development Corporation, Karnataka Uppara Development Corporation and Vishwakarma Development, among others.

A division bench headed by chief justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka has adjourned the hearing to March 31.