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Title: Regarding financial assistance for 'Amma Vodi' Scheme and 'Nadu Nedu' Programme in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET):

Mr Speaker, at the outset, allow me to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister on increasing the allocation for Education by Rs.4,460 crore to Rs.99,300 crore. This increase in budget allocation for Education is a commendable step. It will address the needs and aspirations of India's youth and will ensure that India can take advantage of its young demographic dividend.

The Andhra Pradesh Government, under Jagan Mohan Reddy Garu, has laid great emphasis on education. Among the important schemes it has initiated are 'Amma Vodi' and 'Nadu-Nedu' programmes.

Sir, under Amma Vodi scheme, below poverty line women with school-going children get direct financial assistance of Rs.15,000 annually. The money is deposited every January into every mother's account. This time, we have deposited money into accounts of almost 43 lakh mothers.

Further, under 'Nadu-Nedu' programme, 15,000 schools in the first phase will be upgraded in every aspect. Basic amenities like clean environment, furniture, toilets, running water, compound wall, blackboards etc., will be provided. Apart from providing for infrastructure, skills will also be upgraded. The Andhra Pradesh Government has allocated Rs.12,000 crore for this programme. Sir, these

initiatives seek to raise the quality of education and equip students to compete with their peers across the nation.

Even the Economic Survey 2019-2020 pointed out that due to the absence of a suitable financial support system and high burden of course fee, the poor are pushed out of the education system. The survey also cited that the largest expenditure incurred was on tuition and examination.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that the Right to Education Act was passed long back. I request, through you, Sir, the HRD Minister to partly bear the cost of Amma Vodi Scheme and Nadu-Nedu Programme as it will increase the enrolment ratio and it will be in line with the New Education Policy. ...(*Interruptions*)