

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding merger of Schools under the New Education Policy- laid

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU (NARSAPURAM): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the New Education Policy proposing to merge the primary and upper primary schools with the nearby high schools in the radius of 3 km. These guidelines are creating some implementation problems in the country.

For example, as per the guidelines, AP Government has mapped nearly 5919 schools for this merger. Due to increasing distance of the school due to this merger of schools, parents are finding problems in admitting their children in far away schools. Nearly, 11 lakhs students refrained from taking admissions because of irrational merger of schools.

There is an apprehension that the merger decision will certainly increase the dropout rate of the students, particularly from SC, ST, BC, Minority Communities and girl students from rural areas.

Following these guidelines, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is trying to reduce the number of schools and teachers in schools and is also doing away with the Telugu Medium from Class-1 to Class-VIII.

The AP High Court prima facie found fault with the rationale of merging schools. It observed that the GO NO. 117 issued by the state government is in violation of the provisions of the Right to Education Act (RTE Act).

Keeping in view of all the above, I urge upon the GOI to intervene in the matter of implementation of NEP without creating any problems to the students in the name of merger of schools that will increase the dropout ratio.