

Title: Need to permit candidates to take the Preliminary Test for Civil Services Examination in any of the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution – Laid.

SHRI P. KUMARSAMY (Palani): Every year Union Public Service Commission conducts Civil Services examinations for selecting candidates for various services like IAS, IPS etc. This examination has three stages namely preliminary, main personality test. Of these three stages, languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution are allowed as medium only in main examination and personality test. In the preliminary examination only English and Hindi are allowed as the medium of examination. The preliminary examination is crucial because, only those who qualify this, are permitted to appear in the Main examination. Out of the about 1.5 lakh candidates who had appeared in the preliminary examination, 2002, only 3,483 candidates qualified for the main examinations. Candidates, particularly from the South and North East who had their education in their mother tongues such as Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam etc find it extremely difficult to get through the Preliminary examination. Even every talented candidates who have excelled academically are unable to make it to the Civil Services because of this handicap. If they could be allowed to appear in their mother tongue in two stages of the examination, there is no reason why they should be denied the opportunity to appear in the Preliminary Examination in their mother tongue.

I request the Government to allow candidates to take the Preliminary test in any of the languages listed in the Eight Schedule to the Constitution.