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Title : Need to give two years age relaxation to candidates appearing in UPSC examinations from Tsunami affected areas of the country.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Sir, I would like to highlight in the august House the plight of youth in the Tsunami affected coastal regions of the country including Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands among others. The educated youth who had applied for jobs and preparing to appear for recruitment examination to be conducted by the Union Public Service Commission were greatly affected by the sudden loss of their dwelling units and huge loss of life and property in their localities. The Tsunami disaster that devastated the southern coastal areas in the morning of 26th of December, 2004 caused so much of havoc that people lost their livelihood and loved ones. There were death and deadly losses all over. The Union Government and the State Governments, the local bodies and many voluntary organisations rushed in help but still the sufferings continue.

Considering the enormity of the situation on the eve of the public examinations, both secondary and higher secondary, the State Government postponed the examinations as the students were yet to come out of the shock, mental agony and the stress and strain due to tension caused by panic. When school final examinations were postponed, Union Public Service Examinations slated during that period were not postponed. People lost their houses, documents, certificates, books, livestock, livelihood tools all of them lock stock and barrel. Some localities were even washed away completely. So there is a need for the Union Government to give two years of age relaxation exemption to such of the youth affected by Tsunami disaster. It must be considered that the affected people are mostly from the depressed classes of the society like Dalits and fishermen folk and other backward classes. Though these youth are well educated they have lost an opportunity to find Government jobs as they could not sit for UPSC exams at that hour of grief and loss. Some of them have also become overaged now. Some of them were about to take last chance to appear for UPSC exams but missed out due to loss of materials related to UPSC exams apart from the shock and

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

agony they had gone through. Hence, there is a need for UPSC to give two years of age relaxation issuing a special notification.

I have gathered from sources liked 'Employment News' that candidates from Jammu and Kashmir have got this age relaxation up to five years. So, I urge upon the Union Government to take it up with UPSC to give at least two years of age relaxation to youth from Tsunami affected areas in the country in the pattern of Jammu and Kashmir. As some of the youth have lost their last opportunity and have become overaged and not able to apply for subsequent examinations. Hence, UPSC must give two year age relaxation to youth from Tsunami affected areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Shri Singh, you should not do this. You cannot walk between the speaker and the Chair. This should not be done. You should learn all these things. This is not the place to move about.

Please do not misuse these opportunities that I have given in the name of what you call 'Zero Hour'. It is not the time for making speeches. You can raise an important matter in three, four, five or six sentences[[reporter19](#)].