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Title: Need to ensure 25% reservation for weaker section and disadvantaged groups in the scheme of free and compulsory education in the country

DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a consequence of the enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act and the notification of relevant Rules, the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the able guidance of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has notified the Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules on 8th November, 2011. As per the provisions of the Act, the private unaided schools in Tamil Nadu had admitted children at the Kindergarten stage – 49,864 children in the year 2013-14 and 86,729 children in the year 2014-15, who belonged to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.

Accordingly, the private schools had submitted their claims for reimbursement to the Government of Tamil Nadu amounting to Rs. 25.13 crore in the year 2013-14 and Rs.71.91 crore in the year 2014-15. The Project Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Tamil Nadu also wrote to the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 18th October, 2013 for reimbursement.

But all of a sudden, on 24th March, 2014, the Ministry of Human Resource Department wrote to the State Governments stating that the reimbursement would be effective from 1st April, 2014 and that it would be applicable only to children admitted from Class I.

These unilateral and arbitrary amendments made to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Framework make our claim for reimbursement. It is not being admitted. Moreover our claim for 2014-15 to the extent of Rs. 72 crore is being restricted to only Rs. 14 lakh. These arbitrary restrictions violate the provisions of Section 12(1)(c) of the Act. Secondly, throughout the country, it is a well-known fact that children are being admitted at the Kindergarten stage and not at Class I stage.

So, these amendments to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Framework, which are contrary to the Act, prohibit children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups from getting education.

Hence I would request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to personally intervene in the matter and see that these amendments are withdrawn and that reimbursement to the extent of Rs. 97.04 crore for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15 are made to the Government of Tamil Nadu at the earliest. Thank you.