

an>

Title: Need to provide financial aid to the State Government of Tamil Nadu to promote higher education in the state.

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Hon. Speaker, while the Central Government had allocated one per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for higher education, the Tamil Nadu Government under the dynamic leadership of our hon. Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had earmarked 1.5 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product for it. This is the highest allocation among all the States in the country. The inclusive higher education policy adopted by the State Government has helped in taking higher education to the doorsteps of villagers. During the last few years, the Government headed by our beloved leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had started as many as 52 colleges. Due to the sincere attention given to higher education, the Human Development Index of Tamil Nadu now stands at 0.736 while the national average stands at 0.619. The Gross Enrolment Ratio for higher education in Tamil Nadu stands at 38.2 per cent due to the sincere efforts of the Chief Minister. No other State in the country has attained such a ratio.

Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government will consider providing more financial assistance to the State Government of Tamil Nadu to carry forward the task of higher education. Thank you.