

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Demand to conduct all the recruitment examinations in the 22 scheduled languages of the constitution.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI):

Sir, the candidates who write the UPSC Mains examination are allowed to choose their preferred language, out of the Eighth Schedule languages but when they write the Prelims examination, they have a serious obstacle, especially for the students who come from non-Hindi speaking background, and also students who are not fluent in Hindi. This being the qualifying examination, it involves comprehension and other language-related tasks. It gives an undue advantage to the candidates who are educated in Hindi or English medium curriculum. So, there is no level-playing field for the candidates who come from the remote parts of the country. Their representation is very important. While only 26 per cent of the total population has Hindi as their mother tongue, 59 per cent of the candidates qualifying for recruitment by the UPSC alone, are chosen from the Hindi-speaking background. So, you can see how it works against the students who do not come from the same background.

Other examinations like the Staff Selection Commission examinations, the Combined Graduate Level Examinations, the examinations conducted by the Railways and the banking examinations are also written in either English or Hindi. This is against the interests of the students as they lose out to a large extent; the opportunities are denied to them.

So, I urge the Government to conduct all the recruitment examinations in the 22 Scheduled languages of the Constitution.