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Title : Need to provide free public education to all -laid.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR): For the last one month, the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University are on strike. I salute the spirits of students in JNU for resisting the fee hike. It is not the matter of JNU alone. Protests are going on in major universities, IITs and AIIMs against the fee hike. It is very important to ensure subsidized education in public educational sector in order to sustain social justice in our country. Students should not be denied their right to education at any cost.

Indian institute of Technology has proposed an increase in fees from Rs. 25,000 50,000 per year, to Rs. 2 lakh per year. The IIT fee hike shows how little the government supports research. Fellowships are not distributed for several months. Our research scholars are suffering due to lack of funds. This will lead to a huge intellectual crisis in our future.

The Government has allocated only 4.6% of the GDP for education last year in the budget. This is not sufficient for a better future. It is necessary that at least 6% of India's GDP should be spent on education.

I request to the Central Government to ensure free public education to all in the country. Government should consider the matter of access of Dalits and Minority students in our Higher Educational Institutions.