

le: Regarding merger of Primary Education Schools with Secondary Schools under New Education Policy and its impact on OBC, SC and ST Communities in A.P.

**SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU (NARSAPURAM):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter during the Zero Hour. This is regarding the New Education Policy. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Education Minister that recently the Government of India has come up with a proposal to merge some primary education schools with secondary education schools. It is, in fact, a good scheme, but in the process of its implementation, some of the States, for example in my own State of Andhra Pradesh around 5,980 schools were planned to be moved away from the rural areas to the nearby areas which would be around 8 to 10 kilometers distant from their present locations and consequently there has been a dropout of around 11 lakh students in rural areas. Recently, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh has also made an observation that it appears that it is against the principle of Right to Education and such an action is likely to affect a lot of students belonging to the OBC, SC and ST communities who cannot afford to go to private schools and are solely dependent on those schools for their education.

So, I would like to appeal to the Government to have a discussion with the States so that neither the number of schools are reduced, nor the number of teachers is reduced. This is my humble request to the hon. Education Minister.

**माननीय सभापति:** श्री संजय काका पाटील – उपस्थित नहीं ।