

Seventeenth Loksabha

pan>

Title: Regarding provision of an extra attempt to affected aspirants of examinations such as UPSC, SSC etc. due to Pandemic.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI): Sir, when the Members are raising very important issues, it is very unfortunate that there is no Cabinet Minister present over here.... (*Interruptions*)

माननीय सभापति: यह जरूरी नहीं है | Ministers are there. A Cabinet Minister is there.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI: Sir, the aspirants of the Union Government Recruitment Examinations like the UPSC, SSC and banking exams have been struggling for more than two years now. Regular representations are being given by them but nobody seems to be helping them. We are all aware that the country, during the pandemic, had come to a standstill, and the livelihoods of the students and their future had also become a big question mark. Even the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, in its Report, has recommended that the Government should take a sympathetic approach and provide an extra attempt and age relaxation to the affected aspirants. Yet, there is no such plan and the Government, while answering to a question in this House, has said that they are not considering it.

Sir, a year of preparation nearly costs Rs. 3 lakh for a student and specially students from tier-II and tier-III towns and villages prepare for these examinations at the cost of their jobs, family responsibilities, etc. When they do not get a chance to clear these exams, they are really affected even mentally. Losing an opportunity is a very drastic issue for them in their lives.

Students who have lost their opportunity to write their exams because of the pandemic have to be given a chance and that is a fair thing to do. Through you, Sir, I urge upon the Government to reconsider its decision and explore the possibility of providing one more attempt to these candidates who have lost their chance because of the pandemic and increase their age limit. Thank you.