

Regarding imposition of GST on Parallel Colleges

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson, for allowing me to raise a very important matter regarding the parallel colleges in the State of Kerala and the GST imposed on the parallel colleges.

Madam Chairperson, the parallel colleges in the State of Kerala are contributing exemplary service in the field of higher education.

Those students, who are not getting an opportunity to get an admission in the regular colleges, have the option to approach the parallel colleges where they can continue their higher studies. Wonderful and exemplary coaching is being provided to the students by the parallel colleges. However, unfortunately, the parallel colleges are now following the curriculum directed or guided by the university, Government colleges, and aided colleges. The curriculum and the syllabus are the same as those of the Government and aided colleges.

Unfortunately, the GST Department of the Kerala State has issued a circular classifying the parallel colleges as commercial coaching centres. This classification means that the parallel colleges will not come within the purview of the commercial coaching centres, and thereby GST is imposed on these parallel colleges. Madam Chairperson, what would be the effect? The effect will be that it will directly hit the poor students. The parallel colleges will have to increase their fees, which will indirectly place a greater burden on the shoulders of the poor students and their guardians. Classifying them as commercial coaching centres is neither fair nor right nor legal.

Madam Chairperson, I was also a teacher and lecturer in the parallel colleges, and I know the situation very well. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to withdraw the GST on parallel colleges that are being well run in the State of Kerala, thereby protecting the poor students. Thank you.