

Need for GST exemption on all recognized private educational institutions in the country.-laid

SHRI D. M. KATHIR ANAND (VELLORE): Private educational institutions play a crucial role in India's education system, from preschool to Ph.D. programs. Their contribution significantly boosts the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), ensuring wider access to education. Without them, India's GER would be alarmingly low. However, these institutions face an 18% GST on tuition fees, coaching centres, vocational training, and private tutorials, including competitive exam coaching (JEE, NEET, UPSC, etc.). Distance education platforms and private online courses also fall under this tax. Additionally, essential educational products like uniforms, bags, stationery, printed materials, and study guides are taxed. Further, mid-day meal services, security, cleaning, housekeeping, and transportation are taxed, with classroom rentals, hostels, and administrative buildings also attracting GST. These taxes increase educational costs, making quality education less affordable, especially for economically weaker sections. Higher fees due to GST discourage students from pursuing education and force them to seek less expensive, potentially lower-quality alternatives. This taxation policy undermines accessibility and the right to education. I urge the Union Government to exempt all recognized private educational institutions from GST to ensure education remains accessible and affordable for all students. Therefore, I urge the union Government to exempt all recognised private educational institutions from paying 18% GST.