

Regarding need to address the problems of in-service teachers due to mandatory Teacher Eligibility Test as a service condition-Laid

SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR (ELURU): The recent Supreme Court judgement mandating that all in-service teachers must clear the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) within two years has created fear and uncertainty among lakhs of teachers across the country. When the Right to Education Act and related rules were framed, teachers appointed prior to 23 August 2010 were clearly exempted from the requirement of passing TET. Since then our teachers, some with 15 to 30 years of service have become the backbone of our schooling system. These are experienced educators who have contributed to shaping generations of students. Forcing them to take an entry-level examination at this stage of their career has hurt them deeply and frustration. The consequences of this judgement will extend far beyond teachers. If even a fraction of them are unable to clear the examination within the stipulated time, we may see thousands of classrooms become teacher-less. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to consider suitable amendments to the Right to Education Act and the NCTE Act, 1993, to ensure that teachers who were already in service on 23 August 2010 are duly protected; and hold immediate meetings with teacher associations to take proper action to safeguard the interests of the teachers.