

Regarding request for amendments to the Right to Education Act and NCTE Act,1993 to safeguard the interests of in service teachers

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): Sir, I run educational institutions. My family runs schools as well. Fortunately, I have been raised in a teachers house when I was a kid. So, I understand the pains and the efforts teachers put in not only building the person, but building the nation as well. But recently, there is a Supreme Court judgment which has mandated that all in-service teachers must clear the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) within two years. It has created fear and uncertainty among lakhs of teachers across the country and also in my own State of Andhra Pradesh.

When the rules for Right to Education Act were framed, teachers appointed prior to 23rd August, 2010 were clearly exempted from the requirement of passing TET. Since then, our teachers, some with 15 years to 30 years of experience, have become the backbone of our schooling system, especially in rural and tribal regions. However, the new judicial direction has reopened a settled issue. In my own State alone, almost one lakh teachers may have to take this test. The consequence of this judgment 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 teacherless, especially in rural and remote areas where teacher shortage already exists.

I request two things from the Government of India. One is, consider suitable amendments to Right to Education Act and NCTE Act, 1993 to ensure that teachers who have already been in service on 23rd August 2010 are duly protected.

My second request is to hold immediate meeting with teachers association to take proper action in order to safeguard the interest of these long-serving teachers. Our teachers deserve respect, stability and security. I humbly request the Government to act urgently and uphold the justice for those who have dedicated their lives for nation-building.