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Title: Need to provide more centres for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination is conducted every year. A record number of 4.5 lakh candidates apply for this examination. The Indian Civil Service serves as the backbone of India and carries great respect and responsibilities. India's best brains vie for entry into the Indian Civil Services as officers. Even though corporate jobs may offer the best of salaries and perks, a majority of youngsters and their parents still crave for entry to the prestigious Indian Civil Services held by the UPSC. The very fact that a big share of every year's top posts in the Civil Services Examination are bagged by professionals from various stream shows that the IAS is still the dream job for many.

Out of the candidates who have been finally selected for service all over the country, 10 per cent are from Tamil Nadu, the highest number for any State.

Over 4.5 lakh students - 27, 000 of them are from Tamil Nadu alone - took the preliminary examination from various parts of the country this year, out of which 50,000 were selected for main examination.

In the circumstances, I would like to tell that in Tamil Nadu there are only two centres for writing the Civil Services Examination, ie., Chennai and Madurai.

The poor and middle class students go either to Madurai or to Chennai to write the preliminary examination from far away places of Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, request the Government to introduce more centres like Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu for writing preliminary examination.