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Title: Need to have special equipment and more teachers for the visually handicapped students in Government Primary Schools under Rajiv Vidya Mission.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to raise a matter of urgent public importance regarding the urgent need of special equipment and teachers for visually handicapped students in Government Upper Primary Schools under Rajiv Vidya Mission.

The drop out rate among visually impaired students from Lower Primary Schools to Upper Primary Schools is as high as 80 per cent. The main reason is lack of sophisticated equipment like the Brailers from Class Six which will cost around Rs. 10,000. Under the Government scheme, the visually impaired are entitled for Rs, 1,200 per year. The other main reason is lack of qualified teachers to train visually handicapped students. Teaching Braille is a very individualized one-to-one process.

To increase the literacy levels and reduce the drop out rate of visually handicapped students, I request the Government, through you, to provide enough Brailers and appoint qualified teachers on top priority basis for the Upper Primary Schools under the Rajiv Vidya Mission.