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Title: Need to extend Sarva Siksha Abhiyan to Charitable schools set up before Independence.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Mr. Chairman, Sir thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, in the last eight years the UPA Government through *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* has spent more than 80,000 crore for improvement of the Government schools which are in various rural and urban areas which are primarily meant for the purpose of poorest of the poor section. So, in the last eight years, a lot of funds have been allotted for the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* for improving the primary and upper primary schools. No Government had allotted so much of funds in the history of independent India. Earlier the NDA Government has allotted only Rs. 12,000 crore in the last six years whereas the UPA Government could allot Rs. 80,000 crore. All these funds are going to develop various Government schools which are in the rural as well as in the urban areas where the admissions are predominantly for the poorest of the poor people to join the Government schools. In fact, world wide 80 per cent to 90 per cent of students are there in the government schools, but in India only 40 per cent students are studying in the government schools. Most of them are opting for the private schools. The Government of India has now brought in a new policy wherein even the private schools have to allot at least 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the seats for the poorest of the poor people. In fact, what I want to request to the Government of India is that they need to look into it.

Even during the pre-Independence days, a lot of charitable institutions were set up. A lot of philanthropists, humanists and a lot of missionaries have come in. They have set up various schools purely on charitable lines and they are giving admission only to the poorest of the poor people – not 20 per cent but hundred per cent of the student admission is reserved only for the poor. So, I want the Government of India also to try to include all the charitable institutions in this scheme which were set up during the pre-Independence days, before 1947, especially the missions in Andhra Pradesh where we have the CSI, RCM, the Ramakrishna Mission which have set up various schools in mostly *dalit* areas and *dalit* habitations. They are providing hundred per cent admission only to the poorest of the poor. So, I want the Government of India to extend all the SSA benefits to all these schools and ensure that these schools get the benefit of SSA so that they can construct class-rooms, provide proper salaries for the staff and provide other benefits. So, I would request the Government to look into this important matter.