

an>

Title: Regarding opening of CBSE Schools on 25th December, 2014 to celebrate Good Governance Day.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, yesterday I had raised a very serious issue concerning the religious sentiments of the people of India. I have given a notice today regarding the reply given by the hon. Minister to my intervention....(*Interruptions*)

As per the reply, the hon. Minister told that only online competition is planned and therefore it would not affect the Christmas Day celebration which is not factual. I have the Circular with me. I have the Circular of the Commissioner of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Shri GS Bothyal. As per the circular, the CBSE will also be organizing a competition under the CBSE banner a series of Good Governance Day on 24th and 25th December. The hon. Minister also told that only online competition is invited. But, as per the circular, most of the submissions will be online and offline. The Minister's version is not factual. It is not factual and it is misleading the House. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, I need an explanation from the hon. Minister, through you, Madam. I am seeking an explanation. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): The Government is ready to respond on that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : We are seeking the explanation.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, this issue was raised by the hon. Member yesterday. We would like to place on record, on what he has said now. On 25th December, the Government has no intention whatsoever, if there is any misgiving about it, to open any schools on that particular day, as per the circular which he is referring to. There is absolutely no such intent of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*) I am coming back. Let me come back and explain it to you, my friend. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to him.टाईम बार हो जाने के बावजूद मैंने आपको अलाऊ किया है। फिर आप ऐसे मत कीजिए।

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I am not arguing with you. ...(*Interruptions*)

In what background you are saying, I am trying to explain it.

Madam, this was in reference to Navodaya Vidyalayas, which is about 550 across the country. It is completely 100 per cent residential schools run by the Central Government. That we have to keep it in mind. With reference to what he is saying, we have to refer a Circular, which has not been issued by this particular Government. But there is a Circular which was issued on 13th April, 1987 by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. I will furnish this letter which has been issued as a Government circular. Para 3 of this reads – Navodaya Vidyalaya is being residential in its character, there is no question of declaring a holiday and sending the children because it is an authorized vacation period and they stay in the residences itself. All festivals, not particularly Christmas, should be celebrated in the Vidyalayas only, and children should not be permitted to visit their homes during festivals. This is true for all. It is a celebration which is being done in that particular place in which competitions are held, exhibitions are held. This is applicable to Navodaya Vidyalayas. So, trying to stretch it out and say that this Circular.. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : It is for CBSE also. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This is what is mentioned in the Circular that I read. This has been followed by all the Governments irrespective of the Government of today. This is a Circular what you are talking about. So, there is no question of asking any organization to open the schools on that particular day. This is an activity which has been proposed, which is being done for ages together. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.32 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.