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Title: Regarding fixing of eligibility criteria at 35 percent for students of SC/ST by AICTE in admission in B.E./B.Tech Degree courses.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. Tamil Nadu, the seat of social justice in the sub-continent, intends to extend a liberal eligibility criteria for SC / ST students for admission to professional courses. The Government of Tamil Nadu wants to follow the criteria of 35 per cent as the minimum required marks for SC / ST students for admission to BE / B.Tech Degree Courses. Right from 2011-2012, when All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) made an upward revision to 40 per cent for SC / ST, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking up with the AICTE to bring it down.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, guided by our hon. Leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has requested the Union Government to direct AICTE to fix eligibility criteria at 35 per cent for SC / ST candidates. Since 35 per cent is the passing mark in class 12, it does not violate any rule or norm. In the interest of ensuring social justice and equity, the Government of Tamil Nadu is in the appeal mode to get benefits for SC / ST students, especially, the first-generation students from the rural areas.

Hence, I would urge upon the Centre to intervene in this matter and suitably instruct AICTE to uphold social justice in favour of SC / ST students. This must be done on an urgent basis as the new academic year is going to begin soon.