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title: Need to restore the funding of the Sarva Shiksh Abhiyan to 65.35 percent in Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Thank you, Sir. The Union Government has recently reduced the funding for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is a Centre-State Government funded scheme, by 50 per cent from its earlier funding of 65.35 per cent. This has caused huge financial burden on the State Government.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is the Fundamental Right for ensuring free and compulsory education to children as per 86th amendment to the Constitution of India. The Central Government has to provide at least 75 per cent of fund for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan but it even reduced the existing 65.35 per cent funding which was envisaged in the scheme.

In the Union Budget 2015-16 the Central Government had assured that the scheme will continue as it is fully supported by the Central Government. On the contrary they have reduced the funding to 50 per cent. The Central Government has put an additional burden of Rs.6,000 crore per annum on Tamil Nadu Government.

The Tamil Nadu Government under the able and dynamic leadership of our hon. Leader Purathi Thalaivi Amma is giving importance to education by providing free laptops, free bicycles and free bus passes to students. Amma has allotted Rs.20,936.50 crore for school education this year, providing free education for children from 6 to 14 years.

Hon. Amma has also requested the Prime Minister of India in the first week of October to immediately intervene in this matter and restore the old 65.35 per cent funding of the scheme. Hence, I once again request the Prime Minister to act on the request of our Amma and direct the Finance Minister and the HRD Minister to roll back the Central Government's proposal and restore the funding of the scheme to 65.35 per cent.