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title: Need to allow regional languages in National Eligibility Test.

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Madam Speaker, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to add regional languages, along with English and Hindi, in the medium of question papers of National Eligibility Test conducted by the University Grants Commission in case the centre of examination selected is in non-Hindi speaking States.

A large number of incumbents are appearing in NET every year in all parts of the country to become eligible to be appointed as Lecturers and also for getting Junior Fellowships. Generally, the incumbents complete their Masters Degree course in the regional language of their respective States. Now, the Union Public Service Commission is also conducting the Civil Services Examination in regional languages. Even though the candidates have adequate knowledge in their respective subject, they are unable to succeed in NET mainly because of medium of question papers. This causes severe hardship to students of non-Hindi speaking States and makes them to feel that they are deprived of their rights of getting qualified for NET even though they are well versed in their subjects.

As far as education in Tamil Nadu is concerned, in order to develop infrastructure like providing adequate number of teachers and to improve the learning ability of students, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has allotted Rs. 84,568 crore during the last five years. During the current financial year, *Amma* has allotted Rs. 24,130 crore to the Department of School Education. I would like to point out that Tamil Nadu ranks first in the country in the field of higher education.

Therefore, I, once again, urge upon the Government of India to include all regional languages, including Tamil, in the medium of question papers of National Eligibility Test if the centre of examination selected by candidates is in their respective States.