

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding approval to Government Bill of Tamil Nadu seeking exemption of State Government quota seats from National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH): Thank you hon. Speaker Madam.

The introduction of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test by the Central Government has nullified the policy initiatives taken by our State Tamil Nadu to achieve specific socio-economic objectives such as creating a level playing field between the urban and the rural students and increasing public healthcare in the rural areas. The NEET had placed the students of the State Board syllabus at a greater disadvantage compared to the CBSE students. More than 90 per cent of the students are studying in State through State Board syllabus.

Madam, the hon. Supreme Court had held that the conduct of an entrance examination does not fall within the purview of Entry 66 in List I (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule. Here, it has to be noted that the State Government's competence to enact legislation derives from Entry 25 of List III (Concurrent List).

Based on the legal advice received, the "Tamil Nadu Admission to MBBS and BDS Courses Bill, 2017" and the "Tamil Nadu Admission to Post Graduate Courses in Medical and Dentistry Bill, 2017" were introduced and unanimously passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 1st of February, 2017. The hon. Governor of Tamil Nadu has reserved the Bills for the assent of the hon. President of India under Article 254(2) of the Constitution of India on 18th of February, 2017.

As far as the Post-Graduate medical and dental courses are concerned, as feared, despite the assurance from the Government of India, the High Court has ruled that the time tested Tamil Nadu policy of reservation of Post-Graduate Degree courses cannot be given and the State would have to follow the MCI regulations on incentive marks and not the State pattern followed till last year leading to agitation by the Government doctors.

The lack of assent of the two Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was one of the reasons that the State could not protect its existing policy of Post-Graduate admissions.

Hence, I would like to request the Government of India that the approval may be accorded immediately to the "Tamil Nadu Admission to MBBS and BDS Courses Bill, 2017" and the "Tamil Nadu Admission to Post Graduate Courses in Medical and Dentistry Bill, 2017". The accorded

Presidential assent will enable the State to continue its existing fair and transparent system of admission to Government Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges in the State.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. J. Jayavardhan.