

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 20.4.2017 by **Thiru Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, New Delhi.

"I would like to draw your kind attention to the need for expeditious assent of the two Bills passed unanimously by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for protecting the existing admission policy for under graduate and post graduate admissions in Government Medical and Dental colleges. These Bills were reserved by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu for obtaining the assent of His Excellency the President of India under Article 254(2) of the Constitution of India. **This assent would enable the State to continue its existing fair and transparent system of admission to medical colleges and dental colleges in the State.**

Till now, the selection for admission for the 50 percent State quota in the post graduate courses in Medicine and Dentistry in the State was made based on an entrance examination and experience. **As per the existing policy of the State, fifty per cent of the State quota seats in each specialty of the post graduate courses are allocated to doctors in Government service. On selection, the Government service doctors are required to serve the Government till superannuation while non-service doctors are required to serve the Government for a period of not less than two years after completion of the course. This ensures provision of quality health care to people of Tamil Nadu, particularly, those living in rural, remote and hill areas.**

The Government of India have since amended the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Dentists Act, 1948 to conduct a uniform entrance examination to all Medical Educational Institutions and Dental Educational Institutions at the under graduate level and post graduate level which has made admission based on NEET mandatory even for State quota seats.

In the NEET prospectus issued by Government of India this year, it was clearly indicated that the admission process is to be undertaken and completed by the States/designated authorities/ University using NEET-PG marks as per applicable regulations and/or their eligible criteria, reservation policy, benefit for in-service candidates, rural posting etc.

But the MCI Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 as amended up to March 11th 2017, have provisions which are in contradiction

to the details given in the NEET prospectus Clause 9(IV) allows only 10 percent of the marks obtained for each year of service in remote and /or difficult areas up to a maximum of 30 % of the marks obtained in NEET. The remote and difficult areas are to be defined by the State Government/ Competent authority from time to time. Further, as per the clause 9(VII) of the said Regulations, 50 % reservation for in service candidates is limited to only Post Graduate Diploma courses.

These Regulations have not only brought to naught the admission policy presently followed by the State Government with regard to admission to State Quota seats in the Post Graduate courses but also are contrary to the NEET prospectus issued by Government of India. As a result provision of quality health care to needy people in rural and remote areas has been placed in jeopardy.

In-service doctors in Government of Tamil Nadu have also started an agitation, as the time tested policy of the State of providing incentives to Government In-service candidates has been impacted by the recent orders of the single judge of the Madras High Court on 17.4.2017 in the W.P.No.6031 of 2017 and W.M.P.No 6455 of 2017 **which has ruled that the admissions to Post Graduate courses should be strictly according to the MCI Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000.**

While the State Government is going on appeal against the single Judge order of the High Court, **it is now clear that in order to continue the present system of admission to post graduate courses in medicine and dentistry with statutory backing, the two Bills unanimously passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly to protect the present State policy of admission to Government Medical and Dental colleges under the State quota has to be expeditiously given assent to.** The assurances given by the Government of India which have also been indicated in the in the NEET Post Graduate Bulletin, that there will be no interference with the State Government's policy, except for the NEET examination, have not been adhered to. Alternatively, the MCI Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations must be amended to incorporate the State policy as contained in the proposed Bill awaiting Presidential Assent.

Similarly in the Bill for the State Quota seats for under graduate students, which is also awaiting Presidential assent, the State has repeatedly indicated that 98 % of the students of Tamil Nadu who appear in the State Board examinations would be put to a tremendous disadvantage in NEET because they lack the resources to enroll in training institutions and access materials available to urban students. Consequently, a large number of socially and economically backward meritorious rural students who had earlier benefited by abolition of the Common Entrance Examination stand to lose out this year due to the mandatory NEET examination. The

apprehensions regarding safeguarding accrued socio-economic rights are now considerably heightened and they have to be safeguarded.

Hence, I request you to urgently redress this issue by expediting the Presidential assent to the pending State Bills namely the Tamil Nadu Admissions to Post Graduate Courses in Medicine and Dentistry Bill, 2017 (L.A.Bill No.8 of 2017) and the Tamil Nadu Admissions to MBBS and BDS Courses Bill, 2017 (L.A.Bill No.7 of 2017)".

Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.
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