

contractor of dubious reputation with no exposure and experience in oil exploration. The Government must intervene to see that the ONGC, with a comfortable reserves and surplus fund and very high credibility, takes over the Mangala Oilfield in Rajasthan, and for that matter, Cairn India's majority stake in the best interest of the country's energy security and in the overall interest of the national economy.

I demand that the Government should immediately act upon it instead of sitting idle allowing the share prices of Vedanta and Cairn Energy to rise high in London. The Government must react. Thank you.

SHRI R.C. SINGH (West Bengal): I associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The entire House is associating itself with this Zero Hour mention.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (बिहार): सर, हम लोगों ने भी नोटिस दिया था। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप बैठिए न, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

Decision to have a common entrance examination for medical colleges

SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am raising an important issue which has affected the students aspiring for medical studies in Tamil Nadu. It has also affected the entire country. The policy of the Government that the MBBS aspirants will henceforth have to clear a common entrance test for admission to medical colleges across the country has affected the students who are aspiring for admission to medical colleges, both for under-graduate and post-graduate courses. The Union Government has approved a proposal and a notification is likely to be issued shortly. There is also a proposal to conduct a common entrance test for post-graduate course also.

The decision of the Government mooted common entrance test for both Government and private medical colleges will amount to interference with the rights of the State Governments. I wish

to state that there is an encroachment on the powers of the States in this case. I also wish to state that this move is an infringement on the power of the State Government.

The leader of our Party, Dr. J. Jayalalithaji, who is the guardian of social justice, had introduced a historic social welfare legislation providing 69 per cent reservation for the students of the backward communities, most backward communities and the Adi Dravidar community. The reservation is continuing in the State of Tamil Nadu by virtue of the Supreme Court judgement passed very recently. In these circumstances, the decision of the Government, if accepted, will adversely affect the future of the students aspiring for both Government and private medical colleges. The decision to introduce a common entrance test for all medical course, which was conveyed to the Supreme Court of India, will have an adverse impact on the future of the students aspiring for medical studies.

The common entrance test will hinder the prospects of the rural students of Tamil Nadu who will not be able to compete in the CET owing to their handicap with respect to the language in which they will have to write the examination. They will, at no point of time, be permitted to write the examination in the regional language Tamil.

This decision of the Union Government has sent shock waves across the students of Tamil Nadu, causing anxiety among poor rural and backward class students because at present there is no CET for professional courses in Tamil Nadu. The entrance test was abolished in Tamil Nadu as it facilitated only city students to undergo training for the test. The training fee for such tests conducted by private training institutes was exorbitant. The rural students were put to more pressure immediately after writing their higher secondary examinations. At present, admission to professional courses in Tamil Nadu is conducted based on the performance in the Higher Secondary Board Examinations.

In these circumstances, as the proposal to introduce common entrance test for medical studies will adversely affect the future of the students of Tamil Nadu and interfere with the policy of reservation, we strongly oppose the proposal of the Government. Thank you.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Medical Council has said that the MBBS aspirants have to clear a common entrance test for admission to medical colleges across the country from the next academic year 2011-12. At present there are 17 entrance tests for admission to medical colleges, which are conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education, the State Governments and even some private colleges. But as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we can take the proud privilege of having done away with entrance test which was in vogue for quite a long time, since the experience had revealed the fact that the rural community people were not getting access to the medical colleges in professional courses. Now the system which we are having is that as per the marks secured by students in the higher secondary examinations, they are admitted to professional courses in medical and engineering colleges. The situation prevailing now warrants no such move by the Government. The Chairman of the Board has said this and since the Health Ministry has also given its consent, we strongly, on behalf of the DMK Party, oppose this move for it usurps the power of the State Government. At a point of time when the voice of the State Government is rising high on the demand for State autonomy and review of the Constitution on the basis of the same, this is an attempt to encroach into the powers of the State Government. I urge the Government to reconsider this move and maintain status quo. Thank you.

**Reported U.S. Pressure on Question of Liability of
Dow Chemicals in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am raising a very serious issue of national public importance. It is an issue of the sovereignty of the nation; it is an issue of how the US is trying to arm-twist India on many issues, including the Dow Chemicals issue. Sir, this has been raised by our own media. It has been telecasted by the Times Now Channel. It has been reported by very reputed