

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Discrepancies in entry age in schools in Standard-1 across the country

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Through you, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the discrepancies in the entry age to Standard-1 in schools across the country.

Sir, every year, in the beginning of the academic year, we witness confusion amongst parents and school management over the fixation of the exact age to admit a child to Standard-1. So, most parents are on tenterhooks as the education department in the States come out with last minute age criteria. Some States increase it, some States decrease it, and many times, the circular comes at a stage where the process of admission has already taken place, and sometimes, even the fees have been paid for.

Sir, the RTE Act 2009 is clear that the entry age for admission to Standard-1 would be six years. But, we see that the cut off age is different in different States; different for different Boards. Sometimes, even in a particular city, the schools have different age, the dates of cut off. Sometimes, it is 31st March, sometimes, 1st June, 31st July, 30th September, etc., etc. Sir, the HRD Ministry's own report recognises that there are discrepancies. Sir, the statistic shows that in twenty States and six Union Territories, the minimum age is five or five plus. So, while in States of Maharashtra, where I come from, Bihar, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura and Lakshadweep, it is six or six plus one. Interestingly, the age criteria does not apply to Kendriya Vidyalaya, and it is five years. So, prima facie, this may seem very simple, but, Sir, the parent organisations have started concern their voice against this, because they feel that the students in States where the minimum criteria is six years, are at an undue disadvantage. They face risk of losing out on great opportunities later in life. Most career avenues of the Government of India also, such as, UPSC examinations, the National Defence Academy, etc., etc., set their age according to the five-year criteria. And, therefore, Sir, when we talk of 'one nation, one tax,' we are applying the idea of 'one nation, one election,' I urge the Government, through you, Sir, that 'one nation, one cut off date, and one age' should be fixed for all the schools in India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rameshji, please take note of it. अभी कुछ कहने की जरूरत नहीं है। विषय थोड़ा नाजुक और गंभीर है।

SHRI AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI C. M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. D. P. VATS (Haryana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती मीशा भारती (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Problems of flat owners *vis-a-vis* builders

श्री विजय गोयल (राजस्थान): सभापति महोदय, मैं सदन का ध्यान जो लाखों फ्लैट बायर्स हैं, होम बायर्स हैं, उनकी तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। इन लोगों ने पाई-पाई जोड़कर, अपने खून-पसीने की कमाई से और अपना सब कुछ बेचकर इन फ्लैट्स को बुक कराया है। आप देख रहे हैं कि इन्होंने एक आशियाना का सपना बुना और लालची बिल्डर्स ने इनको बुरी तरह से ठग लिया है। सभापति जी, गरीब को भगवान ने गरीबी दी, लेकिन उसे सहन करने की शक्ति भी दी। लेकिन ये मिडिल क्लास लोग किसके पास जाएं? इन बिल्डर्स ने उनके साथ जान-बूझकर ऐसा किया है, उन्होंने उनके साथ cheating की है, fraud किया है, जिन्होंने और ज्यादा