

Therefore, I urge the Government to regulate the appointment of local language speaking staff for front desk jobs in these institutions except those which are under the Control of State Governments, in all their branches across the country."

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Need to address the issue of increased screen time among children

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. This steep increase in screen time in early childhood years has become a growing concern in India. The advantage that technology has in education, entertainment and communication cannot be denied, but it has been observed that very young children who are still in their very early childhood years are spending more hours in front of screens than required. This has been found to have a negative impact on various aspects of their personalities, their vision, their cognitive, their intellectual, emotional, social and also physical development. Most children are addicted to screens with mobile phones playing the roles of babysitters in families. Sir, excessive screen time beyond approximately one hour daily links to behavioural problems and poorer vocabulary acquisition. The surge in screen based technology usage among very young children has raised concerns about its impact on mental health and overall well-being. A study reveals a connection between increased screen exposure from six to eighteen months of age and adverse outcomes including heightened emotional

reactivity, aggression, externalizing behaviour, such addictions may also lead to attention deficit, hyperactivity which is called the ADHD and low academic output. Additionally, finding suggests that elevated screen time at four years of age is linked to lower levels of emotional understanding at six years of age. These observations underscore the need for a balanced approach to technology use to safeguard the mental health of young children. To address these concerns, a comprehensive strategy should be implemented. The development of a policy framework should prioritize setting permissible limits for screen time during educational activities as well. Parents need support in understanding the consequences in managing the children's screen exposure and this can be achieved through educational programmes and resources that guide them on effective supervision. Additionally, Sir, one more important point is that workplaces should consider policies that enable parent to balance workloads and allocate dedicated time for their children fostering a healthier balance between technology use and quality time in the family. This dual approach combining educational reforms and supportive parental policies aims to create a more conducive environment for the holistic development of children while acknowledging the role of technology in education. The greatest risk, Sir, is that this increases the risk of online predators exploiting small children through child pornography...(*Time-bell rings.*)... The Government must pay attention to this critical issue. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Fauziaji, a very important issue.

SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need to address the financial crisis in state of Kerala

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P. (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I take this opportunity to demand the immediate release of Rs. 5,352 crores Central aid which is due to the State of Kerala. It is the genuine share of the people of Kerala and it is not anybody's generosity. This amount includes Rs. 790 crores in the form of UGC pay revision, another Rs. 700 crores for paddy procurement and for health care it is Rs. 220 crores. So, altogether, it comes to Rs. 5,352 crores.

The State of Kerala submitted all the documents properly and made certain changes suggested by the Central Government. But, till now, this huge amount is due to the State of Kerala. So, I take this opportunity once again to demand immediate release of the same.

Sir, I would like to add one important thing. The existing Centre-State financial relations must be redefined. According to the Fifteenth Finance Commission — as it is rightly observed — States' account for more than 62 per cent of total national expenditure. The States are playing a major role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Whereas, their income share is just 37 per cent! This is huge and glaring disparity and this must be addressed within no time.

Sir, after implementation of the GST, States are suffering due to shortage of finance. So, there is an immediate need and demand for revisiting or restructuring or