

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 30.9.2012 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Dr.Manmohan Singh**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India is reproduced below:-

"I would like to draw your attention to my earlier letter dated 30.07.2011 wherein I had conveyed the Government of Tamil Nadu's strong protest against the move to conduct an All India Common Entrance Test for admission to Under Graduates / Post Graduates. However, despite the State's protest it has been brought to my notice that the Government of India has notified the National Board of Examination (NBE) for conducting the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test for Post Graduate Courses and has gone ahead issuing a public notice for admission to MD / MS / Post Graduate Diploma Courses for the 2013 session.

As already stated in my earlier letter, the State Government has already taken a policy decision to abolish the entrance examination for professional courses. This was done after detailed examination by an Expert Committee that found that such Common Entrance Tests put rural students from poor socio economic backgrounds at a disadvantage due to lack of geographical and financial access to requisite training institutions and materials.

Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has reserved 50% of its medical Post Graduate seats for doctors who have completed three years of rural service with special weightage for those working in hilly and tribal areas. The Government has also successfully obtained and enforced bonds from those completing Post Graduate education in Government Medical Colleges to serve the State for a minimum period, which has helped to meet the need for specialist medical manpower. It will be legally difficult to implement these policy initiatives if a Common Entrance Test is introduced as we would have to fall in line with the regulations of the National Test, which may not have such enabling provisions.

We had earlier been assured by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare that the States would be consulted and our views considered before evolving any policy decision with regard to the conduct of an All India Common Entrance Test. The Government of Tamil Nadu had also given its views as above, specifically stating that the All India Common Entrance Test would interfere with the rights of the State Government in administering the education system and would create problems in implementing the reservation policy followed uniquely in our State. Even after repeated requests, by this public notice, it is now clear that the Government of India has not considered our case and has gone ahead with the decision to implement the Common Entrance Test and in the notice has stated that NEET-PG is a mandatory test for gaining entry to MD/MS/PG Diploma courses in all medical colleges under the ambit of post graduate medical education of the Medical Council of India.

We are surprised and distressed by this unilateral decision of the Government of India which has been taken without taking into account our protest and inspite of the stay against the Common Entrance Test obtained in W.P No 341/2011 and 342/2011 in the Madras High Court which holds good until it is vacated or until the writ petition is disposed of.

The Government of Tamil Nadu strongly protests the move to conduct an All India Common Entrance Test for admission to UG / PG courses in Medical Colleges and reiterates that Tamil Nadu should be exempted from the test and allowed to continue with its existing system for admission to Under Graduate / Post Graduate Medical seats."

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