

Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Human Resources Development and other Members of the CABE, at the outset I would like to convey the wishes of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Amma to the Members of the CABE.

With the blessings of our Chief Minister, Amma, Tamil Nadu is one of the forerunners in the implementation of the RTE, Act, 2009. Immediately on assuming charge our able leader Amma notified the "Tamil Nadu Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2011" for effective implementation of the RTE Act. The Rules clearly outlines the methodologies for successful implementation of the RTE Act, namely 25% reservation for children belonging to the weaker section and disadvantaged groups, formation of SMDC's, minimum infrastructure facilities, fee structure etc.

I would like to very proudly state in this august forum that Tamil Nadu under the able leadership of Amma has

formed the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) and notified the 'academic authority'.

Three Teachers Eligibility Tests have been conducted in Tamil Nadu in the past two years. Realising the need for recruiting quality teachers for improving the standard and quality of education in the schools the cut off for clearing the TET has been fixed at 60% for all categories. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister Amma has announced sanctioning of 64,734 teachers which has helped our State to achieve a PTR of 28:1, the same is likely to improve and the present 75.13% would reach 100% number of schools with RTE complaint PTR in the next quarter once the recently conducted TET results would be announced.

The School Education department has been allocated an amount of Rs.16,965.30 crores, which is the highest given to any department in the State. The State is implementing Free and Compulsory Education by providing free laptops, text books, note books, colour pencils, crayons,

geometry boxes, atlas, school bags, footwear, cycles, bus pass, four sets of uniform. The State has earmarked excluding an amount of Rs.2722.78 crores in the States Budget for the same.

In order to provide 100% toilets and drinking water in all the schools, the State has dovetailed the programmes of SSA, RMSA of School Education department and CSIDS, NBA of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. Additional fund of Rs. 50 crores has been provided in the budge of 2013-14 for schools uncovered in the above mentioned programme.

Our Chief Minister Amma has introduced the continuous and comprehensive Graduation (CCE) System in all the Schools in Tamil Nadu clubbed with then Trimester System. This vision of our Amma has laid the foundation for the children in our State to "learn with joy".

A decision in this regard, will help the State to ensure the rightful implementation of 25% reservation as conceded in the RTE Act, 2009

In our State, the Puratchithaliavar MGR nutritional meal programme was introduced since 1982, at present 53,52,111 (Fifty three lacs fifty two thousand one hundred eleven) are covered in this programme in 42,490 centers. In order to break the monotony and to provide tasty meals to the children our Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched a new programme of providing variety meals and masala eggs to the children.

A Pilot has been launched for providing millets in the form of laddus/halwas/packodas under the State Plan in the districts of Ariyalur and Perambalur. This additional nutritional supplements will cover 63426 children at a cost of Rs.5 crores. The State has also put in many measures for ensuring safety quality and hygienic in the mid-day meals. All Centers have been instructed to constitute the vigilance and monitoring committee under the Chairmanship of the

Member of Parliament for reviewing and monitoring the midday meal scheme.

I would like raise an important issue before this forum. As per the RTE Act, 25% reservation is to be provided in all private schools wherein children belonging the weaker section and disadvantaged groups are to be admitted. In the current academic year 49,864 students have been admitted in Tamil Nadu in this category. As per section 12 (2) of the RTE Act, the expenditure per child incurred by the State are the actual amount charged from the child whichever is less shall be re-reimbursed to the schools admitting such children. However, the pattern of re-imburement is yet to be indicated by the Government of India. If it is to be met out of SSA funds, the same would have to be included in the plan for the year 2013-14 and the re-imburement should be shared by the Centre and the State in the ratio of 65:35. The other option would be to meet this expenditure from the amount provided under the Thirteen Finance Commission Grant-in-Aid.