

**PRESS RELEASE**

Text of the D.O. letter dated 14.7.2018 of Thiru **Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

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I write this letter to bring to your kind attention the apprehensions of the Government of Tamil Nadu with regard to the draft Bill on Higher Education Commission of India prepared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry has sought suggestions from all stake holders.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is of the view that the existing institutional arrangement of the University Grants Commission with both regulatory and financial powers is functioning well and that there is no need to disband the University Grants Commission and replace it with Higher Education Commission of India with only regulatory powers.

The present system, where University Grants Commission is entrusted with the responsibilities of maintaining, monitoring and improving the standards of teaching and research in Higher Educational Institutions and also with the power of sanctioning funds under various schemes has been in vogue since 1956 without any complaints. The University Grants Commission has the required capacity for objective evaluation of the proposals received and sanction funds in a transparent manner. The financial powers are an additional enabling mechanism for University Grants Commission to ensure implementation of its recommendations.

In the now proposed draft bill, the financial powers are proposed to be transferred to MHRD, Government of India or some other body. The Government of Tamil Nadu has strong reservations and apprehensions in this regard, as our experience of sanction of funds objectively based on merits to Tamil Nadu has not been very positive by various ministries of Government of India. Further, if this financial power is taken over by MHRD, we apprehend that the funding pattern would change from 100% funding to 60:40 ratio between Government of India and the State Government.

For the reasons cited above, the Government of Tamil Nadu strongly opposes the draft Bill on Higher Education Commission of India ( Repeal of University Grants Commission Act) Act 2018 and request that the present institution of University Grants Commission may kindly be continued.

May I request a positive response to my suggestions?

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**Issued by: Director, Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9.**  
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