

## **Forum for Good Governance**

Regd. No. 653/2009

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(Retd. High Court Judge)

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L. No. FGG/GOV/REP/ 100 /2021

Hyderabad 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

To H.E. the Governor Telangana State Hyderabad



Respected Madam,

Sub: School Education department – Mushrooming of Teachers Unions causing adverse impact on Education and educational system – Request for controlling the Teachers Unions to improve the attendance of Teachers – Reg.

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After 17 months of long wait schools are reopening and children are going to schools. It is reported that there is shortage of Teachers and some schools are working with 70% of sanctioned strength, about 50,000 Teacher posts are said to be vacant.

Government of Telangana spends about 12000 crores per year as salary bill for the existing strength of Teachers. If the available Teachers attend classes regularly they can, to some extent, fill the gap, but what is happening is barring few exceptions many Teachers are not attending the school on some pretext or other, chief among them being union activity. Hon'able Chief Minister of Telangana is on record saying that why should there be 54 Teachers unions, they are not doing anything except politics.

As per rule 3.1 (a) of service rules any association seeking recognitions must represent 25% of the membership, it implies there cannot be more than 4 unions which get eligibility for recognition. As against this, there are 54 Teachers unions, some are recognized and some are not. Many of the office bearers and principal office bearers rarely attend school and claim they are busy with Association work.

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As per sec. 24 (1) of Right to education Act 2009, a Teacher shall perform the following duties namely

- 1. Maintain regularity and punctuality in attending school.
- 2. Conduct and complete the curriculum

The Act never gave any exemption to any Teacher not to attend school in the name of association work.

Art. 171 of Constitution of India prescribes the composition of legislative council in a state where in there is a provision to elect persons engaged in teaching in educational institutions as member of the council. As nearly as may be one twelfth of total number of members of legislative council may be elected from Teachers constituencies. While there is no discrimination or limitations in the functioning of members of legislative council, Teachers elected from exclusive section of society will have the advantage of proper appreciation of their problems and highlight the issues in the House for redressal of grievances of Teachers if any. When the Teachers have a mechanism for redressal of their grievances why again unions? Most of the union leaders are doing everything except teaching.

There are about 1.3 takh teachers on the pay rolls and close to 12,000 crores of tax payers money is spent for salaries. Barring few exceptions, the teaching standards in Government schools are much to be desired. Common man, if given an option will get his child admitted in a private school paying heavy fee rather than admitting in Government schools where education is free. If the 1.3 lakh teachers attend to their duties regularly, requirement of addition teachers will be less. "NO WORK NO PAY" should be implemented strictly and lost working days due to Corona should be made up. There is a need to declare a holiday for union activities for some time. Teachers working in Government schools are more qualified and getting higher salaries when compared to Teachers working in private schools. But when it comes to results the private schools are faring well. Main reason for this poor performance is Teachers in Government schools are not attending the classes, lack of commitment and accountability.

Forum for Good Governance requests H.E. the Governor to kindly direct the Chief Secretary to take appropriate steps to control the mushrooming of Teachers unions and to improve the attendance of Teachers in Government schools.

Yours Sincerely

M. Padmanabha Reddy

Secretary

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