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# Task force wants ban lifted on recruitment of teachers

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The task force on education, set up by the State Government under the chairmanship of renowned scientist and Rajya Sabha Member Raja Ramanna, has suggested lifting of ban on recruitment of teachers to primary schools and filling up of 15,000 vacancies at the earliest.

Dr Raja Ramanna, a former Union Minister, submitted an interim report on primary education to Chief Minister S M Krishna here today.

Receiving the report, Mr Krishna directed the education department to submit an action taken report within the next two weeks.

The report says that replacement of retiring primary school

teachers must take place regularly by way of fresh recruitment without waiting for a fresh approval from the finance department or suffering due to ban on recruitment on account of economy orders. While emphasising that free primary education should be extended up to 14 years the report recommends that mid-day meals be made available to students through GP's or NGOs instead of supplying them with food grains. The Government should provide funds for infrastructure. Care should be taken that teachers and educational officers are not involved in running the scheme so that their academic work is not affected.

The committee suggests that introduction of an entrance test for recruitment of primary school teachers. Appropriate weightage

may be given to the entrance test marks and the SSLC, PUC and TCH course marks. It is necessary that persons who have studied Science/English languages at the PUC level be recruited as primary school teachers by amending the CRR rules expeditiously, Dr Ramanna said.

The report has suggested that the Government should adopt one class-one room-one teacher norm.

Majority of the schools lack drinking water and toilets. Immediate action should be taken to provide these minimum facilities in schools. Lack of exclusive toilets for girls was a deterrent to girls enrolment and participation as only 18 per cent of schools have girls' toilet and drinking water facility was available in only 64 per cent of the schools. The task force has identified 1,826 habitations which do not have schooling facilities.