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EDITORIAL

National Eligibility Test (NET) is mandatory for teacher's appointment in degree colleges and universities, with some relaxation for Ph.D. degree holders. On the same pattern, National Council for teacher education rather than Ministry of Human Resource Development has introduced Teacher Eligibility Test for teachers appointment in elementary schools throughout the country. Certainly, it will bring fruitful result in improving the quality of elementary education, if, executed honestly with transparency. Central government has conducted CTET twice in June and December 2011 to fill up teachers posts in Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Schools. States too, have conducted state teacher eligibility tests in their respective states. In both CTET and states TET eight to two point five percent degree (B.Ed.) and diploma (D.Ed.) holder could qualify it. It is very alarming for teacher education institutions namely, primary and secondary teacher training colleges of the different states of the India. Qualifying marks in teacher eligibility test for general, other backward caste and scheduled caste candidates were 60%, 55% and 50% respectively. The test battery consisted of Hindi, Maths, English, Social science of senior secondary standard with a paper of psychology related to child development. Graduates with B.Ed. degree and +2 passouts with D.Ed. degree admitted in respective degree and diploma programmes through entrance test and trained for one year and two years, could not qualify TET. It puts a question mark on the quality of teacher education institutions. They are not more than white elephants for the state governments as well as for private partners working in the field. Similarly, universities and SCERTs' affiliating body and conducting examination of B.Ed. and D.Ed. too are responsible for poor quality of teacher education. In nutshell, it can be said that teacher education institutions, primary and secondary are producing incompetent teachers, rather functioning as shops, selling degrees and diplomas of teacher education.

At this juncture, MHRD in general and NCTE in particular should readdress the functioning of the teacher education institution as Teacher eligibility test is not a permanent solution of the quality of teacher education.
