

Shrimati Purnima Banerji (United Provinces : General): Sir, my amendment, is to clause 18 (2). It reads as follows:

"That after the word 'State', the words 'and State-aided' be inserted."

The purpose of the amendment is that no minority, whether based on community or religion shall be discriminated against in regard to the admission into State-aided and State educational institutions. Many of the provinces, e.g., U.P., have passed resolutions laying down that no educational institution will forbid the entry of any members of any community merely on the ground that they happened to belong to a particular community—even if that institution is maintained by a donor who has specified that that institution should only cater for members of his particular community. If that institution seeks State aid, it must allow members of other communities to enter into it. In the olden days, in the Anglo-Indian schools it was laid down that, though those schools were specifically intended for Anglo-Indians, 10 percent of the seats should be given to Indians. In the latest report adopted by this House, it is laid down at 40 percent I suggest Sir, that if this clause is included without the amendment in the Fundamental Rights, it will be a step backward and many Provinces who have taken a step forward will have to retrace their steps. We have many institutions conducted by very philanthropic people, who have left large sums of money at their disposal. While we welcome such donations, when a principle has been laid down that, if any institution receives State aid, it cannot discriminate or refuse admission to members of other communities, then it should be followed. We know, Sir, that many a Provinces have got provincial feelings. If this provision is included as a fundamental right, I suggest it will be highly detrimental. The honourable Mover has not told us what was the reason, why he specifically excluded State-aided institutions from this Clause. If he had explained it, probably the House would have been convinced. I hope that all the educationists and other members of this House will support my amendment.