To,

2019

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal,
Hon’ble Minister of Human Resource Development,
Government of India.

On behalf of Right to Education Forum (RTE Forum), we would like to express our concern at the recent decision by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to increase board examination fee of students of classes 10 and 12, such that students from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will have to pay 24 times more. SC, ST students who previously paid Rs. 50 shall have to pay Rs. 1200 and students from general category will have to pay Rs. 1500 instead of Rs. 750. This unprecedented increase will cause major grievances among parents and students. We fear that if such a manifold hike goes unregulated, children especially from marginalized communities and poor socio-economic backgrounds will be pushed out of the system. The proportion of enrolment of SC and ST students to total enrolment at the secondary level is already low at a meagre 18.5% and 8.4% respectively.

This hike has come at a juncture when the draft National Education Policy 2019 is recommending universalization of secondary education through the RTE Act 2009, which mandates the government to provide free and compulsory education and no fee or any charges should prevent the child pursuing her/his education.

All children in India have the fundamental right to receive equitable and quality education without facing the burden of such unregulated and unilateral impositions in the form of examination fee hike.

We, at RTE Forum oppose this and it is our request to you to look into the matter urgently and ensure that CBSE withdraws this decision.

SIGNATORIES:

1. Ambarish Rai, National Convener RTE Forum
2. Mujahid Nafees, RTE Forum Gujarat
3. V.P.Niranjaradhy, Senior Fellow and Programme Head, Universalisation of Equitable Quality Education Programme, Centre for Child and the Law, NLSIU, Bengaluru
4. Joseph Victor Raj, Campaign against Child Labour, RTE Forum Puducherry
5. Prabir Basu, RTE Forum West Bengal
6. Hemangi Joshi, RTE Forum Maharashtra
7. Aatrayee Sen, RTE Forum Himachal
8. Sanjeev Sinha, Uttar Pradesh RTE Forum- SCORE
10. Gautam Bandyopadhyay, RTE Forum Chhattisgarh
11. Kommu Ramanamurty, RTE Forum Andhra Pradesh

12. K. Murthy, RTE Forum Tamil Nadu
13. Anil Pradhan, RTE Forum Odisha
14. Chandrakanta Bharti, RTE Forum Delhi
15. Bondita Acharya, Purva Bharati Educational Trust, RTE Forum - Assam
16. Raghu Tiwari, RTE Forum Uttarakhand
17. Sandesh Bansal, RTE Forum Madhya Pradesh
18. Mitra Ranjan, RTE Forum Bihar
19. Dr. Anil Kumar Roy, Association for Study and Action, RTE Forum Bihar
20. Yuman Hussain, Azad India Foundation
21. Islamul Haque Khan, Delhi
22. Ashok Kumar, National Advocacy Unit, Campaign against Child Labour (CACL)
23. Jyotsna Jha, director, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore
24. Nawlesh Kumar Singh, State Convener, Campaign Against Child Labour Bihar