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## Edn. Dept. told to respond to Task Force report

By Our Special Correspondent

**BANGALORE, JULY 20.** The Chief Minister, Mr. S.M.Krishna, today instructed the Department of Education to come out with plans within the next fortnight on implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Education headed by Dr. Raja Ramanna.

The Task Force submitted an interim report to the Chief Minister here today. Among others, it has called for the immediate relaxation of the ban on the recruitment of primary school teachers pending the report of the committee studying the issue of granting grace marks to rural candidates seeking employment in government service.

Mr. Krishna said that the recommendations should be implemented from the current academic year itself.

The members of the Task Force are Prof. R.Govinda, Dr. Radhika Herzberger, Prof. M.I.Savadatti, Prof. A.S.Seetharamu, Mr. K.P.Surendranath, Dr. H.Sudarshan, Mr. Jayakumar Anagol, Dr. T.K.Jayalakshmi, Mr. Nanjundaiah and Mr. R.N.Shastri (Member Secretary).

The relaxation of the ban on recruitment of primary school teachers was necessary to ensure that all children of school-going age were enrolled in the schools. In case the Government decided to provide weightage to rural candidates based on the report of the committee (headed by Mr. Justice K.Ramakrishna, retired judge of the High Court), it could be achieved through subsequent recruitments.

The Government should move towards the goal of one room, one class and one teacher norm. The average number of students per teacher with multiple class teaching should not be above 30. It noted that great disparities existed in pupil-teacher ratios across the districts. There was urgent need for rational deployment of teachers within and across the districts. Districts in Gulbarga and Belgaum revenue divisions needed to be sanctioned additional posts of teachers.