

# How can person earning Rs 3.5 lakh per year be poor?

TNN | Sep 12, 2012, 12.33AM IST

**BANGALORE:** Terming the economic yardstick fixed by the state government for filling 25% seats for the disadvantaged class under the Right To Education Act as 'ridiculous', the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday gave it two weeks to file its response.

"How can a person earning Rs 30,000 per month or Rs 3.5 lakh a year be poor? It's ridiculous to say the least. Did you borrow this from the Planning Commission which once said a person earning Rs 32 per day is not poor?" the division bench headed by Chief Justice Vikramajit Sen asked the government advocate.

"Prima facie, we feel a typographical error may have occurred. By any reasonable standards, the limit should have been around Rs 35,000 per year," the bench observed.

K Nagesh and two other students from Mysore challenged the notification of May 8, 2012 wherein the income limit for parents and guardians was fixed at Rs 3.5 lakh per annum to be considered under the disadvantaged group for seats under the Karnataka Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2012.

"The prescription of the below poverty line is Rs 30,000 per annum, which translates into Rs 2,500 per month. Such people definitely will not be able to send their children to elementary schools and provide them quality education. The RTE Act is meant for children of such people. By the present notification, the state is depriving children whose interest was sought to be catered by the Act," the petitioners stated.