

maintain information about the visits undertaken by Indian professors to foreign countries in exercise of their academic freedom.

#### **Closing down of schools**

†4717. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools closed or are on the verge of closing down in various States of the country during last three years;
- (b) the details of these schools, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for closing of these schools;
- (d) whether Government has implemented Right to Education Act from 1 April, 2010; and
- (e) whether this Act would be able to work effectively given the situation arising from frequent closures of schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Information/Statistics regarding schools closed down in various States of the country is not maintained by the Central Government.

(d) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 has come into force with effect from 1st April, 2010

(e) It is the responsibility of the appropriate Government and the local authority to ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of the age of six to fourteen years Further, section 6 of the RTE Act provides that for carrying out the provisions of the Act, the appropriate Governments and the local authority shall establish, within such area of limits of neighbourhood, as may be prescribed, a school where it is not so established, within a period of three years from the commencement of the RTE Act.

#### **National Means-cum-Merit Scholarships**

4718. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether only 33,000 National Means-cum-Merit Scholarships (NMMS) were given out of an allocated total of one lakh in 2007-08 and 2008-09;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if not, the number of scholarships given for both years; and
- (d) the steps taken to ensure maximum uptake of this scholarship scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme was launched in 2008-09. Each year, there is provision for one lakh new scholarships.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.