

officers, staff and quality control professionals to ensure use of good quality raw materials. However, to address all the issues, the Catering Policy is presently under review.

Opposition of private schools to admission of poor children

† *615. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1 April, 2010, under 'Right to Education' Act, education has become a Fundamental Right for all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards statements of managers of private schools in which they have clearly declined to provide 25 per cent seats to the category of poor and deprived children from 2011;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to tackle this situation; and

(d) whether Government is taking any steps for getting children admitted in neighbouring schools; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Article 21A of the Constitution titled "Right to Education" and its consequential legislation, The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 have come into force from 1st April, 2010.

(b) and (c) Section 12 of the RTE Act, *inter alia*, provides that unaided schools shall admit in class I to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of that class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighborhood and provide free and compulsory education till its completion. The Government has not received any representation from private schools clearly declining to implement the provisions of the Act.

(d) According to the RTE Act, it is the duty of the appropriate Government and local authority to establish neighborhood schools and ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by every child of the age of six to fourteen years. The Government has written to the State Governments to take necessary steps for implementing the provisions of the Act.

Booking of tickets on fake names

*616. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of operation of touts who reportedly buy a large number of tickets in fictitious names and sell them at a premium, allegedly in connivance with some departmental staff;

(b) if so, the number of such cases apprehended by Railways during the last four months from January to April, 2010, Zone-wise and Division-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.