

**Authorisation to export iron ore**

\*447. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from Metal Scrap Trading Corporation Ltd. (MSTC) seeking authorization to export iron ore on the pattern of export being done by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC); and

(b) if so, the details of the request received from MSTC and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal of MSTC to act as canalizing agency for export of iron ore with FE content 64% and above has been received and the same is under consideration.

**Seats for weaker and socially disadvantaged background  
children under RTE Act**

\*448. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to section 12 of the Right to Education Act, all private unaided schools must allocate 25 per cent of the seats in Class I (or lowest grade) for children from economically weaker and socially disadvantaged backgrounds;

(b) whether Government has decided upon the definition of economically weaker and socially disadvantaged backgrounds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has recommended a formula for implementation of section 12 of the Act and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Section 12(1) (c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides that unaided schools not receiving any kind of aid or grants to meet its expenses from the appropriate Government or the local authority, as well as 'specified category' schools as per section 2(p) of the RTE Act, shall admit in class I, to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that

class, children belonging to weaker section and disadvantaged group in the neighbourhood and provide them free and compulsory elementary education. It further provides that this provision shall apply for admission to the pre-school stage where the school imparts pre-school education.

(b) and (c) Section 2(d) of the RTE Act defines "Child belonging to disadvantaged group" as a child belonging to the Scheduled Caste, the Scheduled Tribe, the socially and educationally backward class or such other group having disadvantage owing to social, cultural, economical, geographical, linguistic, gender or such other factor, as may be specified by the appropriate Government, by notification. Section 2(e) defines a "Child belonging to weaker section" as a child belonging to such parent or guardian whose annual income is lower than the minimum limit specified by the appropriate Government, by notification.

(d) The Ministry has issued Guidelines under Section 35(1) of the RTE Act regarding procedure for admission in schools under Section 13(1) and section 12(1)(c), which clarify that (i) admissions in class I (or pre-primary class as the case may be) in unaided and 'specified category' schools shall follow a system of random selection from the applications received from children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections for filling the pre-determined number of seats in that class, which should be not less than 25% of the strength of the class and (ii) admission to the remaining 75% of the seats (or a lesser percentage depending upon the number of seats fixed by the school for admission under section 12(1)(c), each school should formulate a policy under which admissions are to take place. This policy should include criteria for categorization of applicants in terms of the objectives of the school on a rational, reasonable and just basis. There shall be no profiling of the child based on parental educational qualifications. The policy should be placed by the school in the public domain, given wide publicity and explicitly stated in the school prospectus. There shall be no testing and interviews for any child/parent falling within or outside the categories, and selection would be on a random basis. The Guidelines are posted on the Ministry's website [www.education.nic.in](http://www.education.nic.in).

#### **Food security crisis**

† \*449. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.