

(c) the total number of such schools in the country which have not obtained, no objection certificates, from the fire department so far; and

(d) the total number of such schools in the country against which action has been taken by Government for irregularity in this regard, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Education being a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution, and the majority of schools being under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is for the respective State Governments/Union Territories to take appropriate decisions in this matter. However, the Ministry of Human Resource Development had written to all the State Governments vide their letter dated 27th July, 2004, to ensure the safety and the well being of the children in the schools by taking necessary measures for fire safety in the school buildings. The Affiliation Bye-Laws of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) *inter-alia* provide that the school should scrupulously observe the guidelines from the Municipal Authority/District Collectorate/Transport Department regarding drinking water, fire safety and transport in the schools. The schools are also expected to obtain and submit fresh certificate regarding the fulfillment of these requirements every five years. The CBSE issues instruction from time to time in this regard. The State Governments and Union Territories were asked to ensure fire safety measures in the light of the Supreme Court judgment dated 13.04.2009 in the writ petition (civil) 483 of 2004, case titled Avinash Mehrotra *Vs.* Union of India.

**International universities' pressure to frame rules/policies suiting them**

2881. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international universities have appointed consultants in Delhi, who are pursuing the agenda of these universities to put pressure on the Ministry and the UGC to frame rules suiting them and to their advantage;

(b) if so, the names and number of consultants operating in the Ministry and the UGC, propagating the views of the international universities; and

(c) whether Government is changing its policies to suit these international universities and putting the well known Indian universities at a disadvantage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No, Sir. Some of the foreign universities have appointed agents/consultants in India to help students who may be interested in pursuing further studies in these foreign universities. However, neither the Ministry nor the University Grants Commission (UGC) maintains any record of such consultants. There is no pressure from these consultants on the Ministry or the UGC to frame any rules to suit them or for their advantage.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

#### **Violation of norms by schools in Delhi**

2882. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the private schools, which had purchased land on concessional rates in Delhi, are violating the requirement of compulsory admission to students from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS); and

(b) if so, the names of the schools against whom action has been taken and the kind of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009 provides for free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years. The Section 12 (1) (c) of the RTE Act provides that a specified category school and an unaided private school shall admit in class-I (or pre-primary as the case may be) to the extent of at least twenty-five per cent of the strength of that class, children belonging to the weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the neighbourhood and provide free and compulsory elementary education to them till its completion.

The Sections 31 and 32 of the RTE Act provide for a monitoring mechanism by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) and for the redressal of grievances by local authorities.

It is for the appropriate State Government and the concerned local authority to ensure the implementation of the RTE Act.