

**Extension of RTE to children below six years**

1576. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, while the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 gives the right to free and compulsory education to all children between ages six to fourteen, but it does not extend that right to children under six but above four, whose brain development is in crucial and transformative stage;

(b) whether Government intends to amend Section 3 of RTE Act in order to extend the coverage of RTE Act to all children between the ages of four to fourteen; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (c) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides a right to free and compulsory education to every child of the age six to fourteen years in a neighbourhood school till the completion of elementary education. As per Section 11 of the RTE Act, 2009, the appropriate Government may make necessary arrangements to provide free pre-school education for children above the age of three years with a view to prepare for elementary education and to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

**Seat reservation in KVs and JNVs**

1577. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Central Government to implement and ensure 25 per cent reservation for economically backward and poor students in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas as well as in all the private CBSE schools functioning in the country;

(b) whether Government has appointed any vigilance and monitoring committee and ombudsman to check, monitor and ensure the said reservation for economically backward and poor students in KVs and NVs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide financial and technological support for KVs and NVs during the last three years, year-wise?