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Title: Regarding closing of unrecognised schools across India.

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Madam Speaker, the Right to Education Act made education a fundamental right under the Indian Constitution. However, today that fundamental right of thousands of children across India is being violated because of this Act.

Across India, schools are being shut down for not following infrastructural norms, size of classroom, not having a playground, not having a gymnasium, etc. Yet, these private schools are the schools that charge a very low fee and provide quality education for the children who are not getting that standard of teaching in most Government schools, except perhaps in Kendriya Vidyalayas or such like schools. Despite poor quality of education, the Government cannot take any action against these Government-run schools under the RTE.

मेरे पास बहुत लोग काम के लिए आते हैं, नौकरी के लिए आते हैं और कहते हैं कि मैं 8वीं, 10वीं, 12वीं पास हूँ। जब मैं उनसे कहती हूँ कि किसी पेपर या किताब की दो लाईन पढ़कर सुनाइए तो वे एक लपट भी नहीं पढ़ पाते हैं। मेरा कहना है कि सरकारी स्कूल से सर्टिफिकेट दिए जा रहे हैं लेकिन एजुकेशन नहीं मिल रही है।

So, when that the state of education in most Government-run schools, why are private schools being shut down without proper inspection into what is being taught there? There was one problem which most of these schools were facing. They were not being recognized by the respective State Governments. Archaic rules and regulations governing the recognition process are so restrictive that they can only be satisfied by schools with huge capital. The tragedy is that we do not know how many such schools have been shut down. हजारों स्कूल बंद हो चुके हैं, लाखों बच्चे, कम से कम पांच लाख बच्चे एजुकेशनली डिस्प्लेस हो चुके हैं, कोई स्कूल नहीं है जहां वे जा सकें। एच.आर.डी. मिलिस्ट्री के पास सिवाय पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश के आंकड़े भी नहीं हैं। This is a very serious issue that needs to be addressed at the highest level because it is a question of the future of our children. हम कहते हैं- पढ़ाओ - लिखाओ। अगर उन्हें सुविधा ही नहीं मिलेगी तो आने वाली पीढ़ियों का क्या होगा?

Firstly, schools are being shut down. Is this being done for the right reasons? Secondly, unless we know how many children are affected, how can we work on ensuring that they get quality education which is their fundamental right? We need good education, not just a piece of paper with 'recognized' written on it. I would request the Government to please look into this matter urgently and take necessary action at the earliest because so many children are going without any education. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Udit Raj, Shrimati Anju Bala, Shrimati Rekha Verma, Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Devji M. Patel, Shrimati Rama Devi, Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Dushyant Chautala and Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kirron Kher.