

party in respect of all the States? (*Interruptions*)

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI. The ex-factory levy price differs from State to State. I think the hon Member means the ex-factory price of Sugar. But it does not arise out of this question. Anyhow, I would like to State that it varies from State to State. For example, as far as Maharashtra is concerned, the production is higher, the recovery is higher, the duration is more, the cost of production is less. Comparing to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the cost of production is less in Maharashtra. That is why we fix up the ex-factory value taking into consideration the cost of production (*interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKERJEE Sir, You are not calling my question

MR SPEAKER You are a front-bencher

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two types of rationing systems prevalent in the country - one is statutory rationing and the other is modified rationing. If the production of sugar is increasing in the country why cannot we distribute the same quality sugar through both the rationing systems. How long would it take now?

MR SPEAKER This is not a relevant question but even then I am allowing the Minister

[*English*]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI We distribute it uniformly taking into consideration the total population. We give 425 grams per head

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE Mr Speaker,

Sir, in Delhi, per head quota is comparatively more than in other States. A uniformity should be maintained. If sugar is distributed considering 1991 as base year then all people would be able to get it and there would be adequate supply (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI Sir, it is a fact that Delhi has been getting a little bit more

SOME HON. MEMBERS Why?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI It is getting for a very long time

MR SPEAKER And also because, Delhi has no sugar factory. Shri Meghe, Please sit down. You have asked the question and you will get the reply

SHRI TARUN GOGOI Sir, not only Delhi, there are seven such areas which get a little bit more. For example, Lakshadweep, the constituency of Shri P M Sayeed, Andaman and Nicobar Islands from where Shri Manoranjan Bhakta comes and certain other areas

Ban on Employment of Children in Beedi Industry

*391 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE
SHRI C P MUDALA GIRIYAPPA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the number of children employed in the beedi industry in the country,

(b) whether the Supreme Court has given a judgement putting an immediate ban on employment of children in beedi industry.

(c) if so, the details of the directive given by the Supreme Court in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken for the speedy implementation of these directives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR):(a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Employment of Child Labour in industrial premises where beedi is manufactured is prohibited under Section 24 of the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment), Act, 1966. Section 43 of the above Act 'however' enjoins that the provisions shall not apply to a self-employed person manufacturing beedi in a private dwelling house with the assistance of members of the family including children dependent on him. 'Child' under the above Act means a person who has not completed 14 years of age. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 also contains similar provisions in respect of employment of children in beedi-making. No statistics are available of children being employed by way of assistance in the family or private dwelling houses in beedi making.

2. The Supreme Court in the writ petition No. 1262 of 1987 on November 19, 1991, inter alia, directed as follows:

"Tobacco manufacturing has indeed health hazards. Child labour in this trade should therefore be prohibited as far as possible and employment of child labour should be stopped either immediately or in phased manner to be decided by the State Governments but within a period not exceeding three years from

now. The provisions of Child Labour Abolition Act, 1986 should be strictly implemented."

3. The State Government are advised to ensure strict implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, the Supreme Court's ruling was given in 1987 and it says that "employment of child labour is prohibited in bidi manufacturing and that it should be stopped either immediately or in phased manner to be decided by the State Governments but within a period not exceeding three years from now." Already four years have passed. In the statement you have asked the State Governments to ensure strict implementation.

May I know whether you have received any feed-back from the State Governments and if so, which States have responded and what was the feed back.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): Sir, the judgment of the Supreme Court was not given in 1987. It was given on 19th of November, 1991. I think the hon. Member had made a slight mistake in referring the case number and the year. The judgment was delivered on the 19th of November, 1991. It is just about a month now. We need a little more time, to get the information from the State Governments. Also, it is being examined by our Legal Department. It will take sometime.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, if the case was registered in 1987, how come that the Government could let it pass after four years? May I know, what steps were taken at that time to get the judgment on time

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, I cannot make

any comment on the delay of the judgement by the Supreme Court.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that under the Act of 1966 children below the age of fourteen years can not be employed. But in Bidi Industry in Bihar boys of the age of eight to ten years are also employed. Is there any Government monitoring agency to check it.

[*English*]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, employment of children is not prohibited everywhere. The employment of children is prohibited only in certain areas where it is hazardous and in the non-hazardous areas, the children are allowed to be employed with certain regulations, certain conditions. So, it is possible that in non-hazardous areas, the children are being given employment.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know if the Government has conducted a survey to find out the number of child labourers presently employed in Bidi Industry. It has been observed that Supreme Court has ordered the ban on child labour yet their conditions are such that they cannot remain jobless as they belong to poor sections of society. So I would like to know if the Government has any plan under consideration wherein those child-labours can get education and earn while they learn.

[*English*]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, bidi is produced in two ways. One is in the factory and another is in the family, on contract basis. The rolling is done by the families. As far as the factory is concerned, we have prohibited

employment of children in the factories. But as far as home making is concerned, we have allowed the children to help their parents. There are children who are helping their parents in rolling the bidis.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Modifications in Eighth plan Targets

*392. SHRI VJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to modify the targets of the Eighth Five Year Plan in view of the liberalised economic policies;

(b) if so, the fields in which modifications are likely to be effected; and

(c) the precise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Eighth Five Year Plan is still under preparation and its targets are yet to be finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Status Paper on Revival of Sick Public Sector Units

*393 SHRI RABI RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate status paper has