

the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. The Supreme Court in their judgement dated 10.12.96 has also given a number of directions including conducting a survey on working children. The first phase of the survey has already been completed.

(c) Government have taken a number of steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations. A major programme was announced in August 1994 for the rehabilitation of around 2 million children working in hazardous occupations. So far 76 Child Labour Projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools set up under the projects. Apart from this, steps have also been taken for implementing the directions of the Supreme Court of withdrawal and rehabilitation of working children.

(d) and (e) Planning Commission has not made any assessment recently regarding the magnitude of child labour by the year 2000. The Government however, is committed to a policy of progressive elimination of child labour in all its forms.

[English]

Elimination of Child Labour

115. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a Rs. 800 crore project to eliminate child labour from hazardous occupations by the end of the century;

(b) if so, the main features of the project; and

(c) the steps Government propose to taken to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A major programme was announced by Government on 15th August, 1994 to rehabilitate child labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the project, an estimated 2 million children working in hazardous occupations were proposed to be withdrawn from work and rehabilitated by putting them in schools with provisions for non formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, etc. It was estimated that an amount of Rs. 850 crore would be required for the purpose. So far 76 Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations.

While the Government was still considering extension of the programme to other districts, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement 10.12.96 issued several directions regarding the manner in which the children working in hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of children working in non hazardous occupations are to

be improved and regulated. The State Governments have already taken steps for implementation of the judgement of Supreme Court.

Encroachment

116. SHRI RAM SAGAR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "encroaching and illegal constructions: Jha panel indicates BJP MLA, Congman" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item states that the Madan Jha Committee, which Constituted by the Lt. Governor, has alleged involvement of a Member of Delhi Legislative Assembly and a Local Leader in the encroachment on the Public land and unauthorised construction. The Committee has submitted its report to the Lt. Governor. The report further alleges that no follow-up action has been taken on the recommendations of the Committee.

(c) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that they are seized of the matter relating to the follow-up action on the report of the Jha Committee.

Closure of Homoeopathy College

117. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Council of Homoeopathy has ordered the closure of the Government college of Homoeopathy in Bangalore and also to stop fresh admissions from the coming academic year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to allow re-opening of the above college and to make fresh admissions; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) on its inspection of the Government College of Homoeopathy, Bangalore found that the College did not meet the minimum required norms and standards prescribed by it. The Council had stopped further admissions of students to the college. However, keeping in mind the efforts made by the State Government for rectifying the deficiencies pointed out by CCH during their inspection, the