

SAARC Conference on Child Labour

985. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI PRASASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Conference of SAARC countries held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, have resolved to eliminate the child labour by 2000 from the region and launch a comprehensive nutrition drive in South Asia.

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether at the recent ministerial conference on "Child" of South Asia, SAARC nations also recommended that 2001 to 2010 be declared as SAARC decade on the rights of the child:

(d) if so, the details thereof:

(e) the assistance provided by India being a Member of SAARC; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken to eliminate the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Third SAARC Ministerial Conference on children of South Asia held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan from 20-22 August, 1996 resolved that by year 2000 child labour working in hazardous occupations should be eliminated and that severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children reduced at least by half of 1990 level.

(c) and (d). The SAARC Ministerial Conference on children of South Asia has recommended that the years 2001-2010 be declared as "The SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child".

(e) India's contribution to SAARC Secretariat Budget, which is based on calendar year and is paid in US Dollars, follows :

1995	-	US \$ 2,49,523.19
1996	-	US \$ 2,95,798.20

(f) Government has taken a number of steps for the rehabilitation of child labour. As part of the National Policy on Child Labour announced in 1987 project based action plan has been initiated in the areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment. A major programme was announced in August, 1994 to rehabilitate child labour working in hazardous occupations. As a follow up of the programme, Government is presently engaged in the task of rehabilitation of about 2 million children, working in hazardous occupations, by the year 2002. During 1995-96, 76 Child labour projects were sanctioned for rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations in 11 child labour endemic states where they are provided basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health-care and stipends.

[Translation]

Chatra-Hazaribagh-Ranchi Railway Line

986. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which survey had been conducted on Chatra-Hazaribagh and Ranchi railway lines;

(b) the total amount spent on the survey; and

(c) the time by which construction work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No Survey has been conducted on Chatra-Hazaribagh line so far. For Hazaribagh-Ranchi, the updating survey has been taken up and the report is expected by end of Jan'97.

(b) Rs 7.25 lakhs

(c) Further consideration regarding taking up of the project, in consultation with the Planning Commission would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Late Running of Trains

987. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the increasing incidents of late running of trains during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The punctuality of trains has improved to 90.2% in August, 90.6% in September and 91.0% in October 1996 as compared to 85.9% in August, 85.9% in September and 85.3% in October, 1995.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched.

Railway Lines

988. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay Railway lines in the Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to link various religious places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey in this regard has been conducted by the Government;