

Government in cooperation and coordination with the State Governments have formulated any 'Action Plan' for elimination of child labour in a phased manner starting with the hazardous industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the number of children involved therein and the estimated expenditure required for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India does not accept the "social clause", which is an unwarranted conditionality on international trade. Government has made its opposition to "social clause" abundantly clear in several forums, including the International Labour Conference and the recently concluded World Summit for Social Development.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced on 15th August, 1994 that 20 lakh children engaged in hazardous vocations will be withdrawn from work and put into schools in the course of next 4-5 years. As a follow-up to this announcement, a National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Labour Minister. The NAECL has adopted a plan of action regarding "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour". This plan of action Hon'ble Prime Minister and Union Labour Minister for necessary action. This plan of action covers the range of actions to tackle the child labour problem especially in hazardous occupations. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level-the District level to effectively handle the child labour elimination effort. It has been estimated that an amount of Rs. 850 crores would be required to eliminate 20 lakhs child labour from the hazardous occupations by the year 2000. An allocation of Rs. 34.4 crores has been made for the current year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work.

Decline in Export of Tea

871. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity with percentage of tea production available for exports in 1981 and 1993;

(b) the reasons for decline in export performance of tea; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost tea production per hectare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Required information is as follows

Year	Production (in kg)	Exports (in kg)	Exports as % of Production.
1981	560.43	242.07	43.19%
1993	758.06	175.32	23.13%

(b) Reasons for lower quantum of exports are attributable to lower imports by Russia and other CIS countries on account of their internal economic problems; lower imports of tea by Iran, Egypt and Saudi Arabia and competition from other producing countries.

(c) In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. Tea Board has also prepared a perspective plan to increase total production as well as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices; medium term measures such as irrigation, drainage, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling; as well as long term measures such as re-planting and effective R & D intervention.

Export of Electronic Items to Western Europe

872. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a steady increase in the export of electronic items particularly to the Western Europe during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been a steady increase in the export of electronic items. India's export of electronic items and to West European countries during the last three years is as under :

India's export of electronic items

	(Rs. Crores)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	617.08	952.14	1273.31
Growth (%)	-	+ 54.29	+ 33.73

Export to West European countries

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	118.15	205.74	280.84