

up State Commission and District Redressal Forums in the States/Union Territories.

Renovation of Lower Damodar Basin

266. PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRAVORTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to renovate the Lower Damodar Basin; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to start and the amount required for its renovation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). The proposal for modernisation of DVC canal system was returned to the State Government for modification and subsequently, due to non-receipt of the same, deleted from the list of pending projects in November, 1985. Modified report has not yet been received at the Centre.

Supply of Foodgrains to Tea Garden Workmen

267. SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several memoranda and representations have been made against the supply of rotten and worst quality of rice and wheat to the workmen of the tea gardens of West Bengal by the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On investigation it was found that the stocks of foodgrains as approved by the State Government conforming to the prescribed specifications and fully fit for human consumption only were issued from FCI godowns.

Task Force Report on Child Labour

268. DR. K. KALIMUTHU:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI LOKANATH CHAUDHARY:
SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on Child Labour headed by Shri L.M. Singhvi has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish a white paper on Child Labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A summary of recommendations is given in the Statement below. The Report of the Task Force will be placed before the next meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Child Labour before taking appropriate action in the matter.

(c) National Child Labour Policy has already been publicly announced.

STATEMENT*Summary of the recommendations of the Task Force on Child Labour**I. General*

- (i) Problems of child labour should be seen as problems of children.
- (ii) The problems of children should be viewed keeping in view all the ramifications such as mortality, nutrition employment, educational facilities, population explosion, poverty etc.
- (iii) There should be more resources for welfare schemes which should be given over-riding priority.
- (iv) A Joint Committee of the Houses of Parliament and a similar Committee in State Legislatures should function as a Standing Committee to represent children.
- (v) All problems relating to children should be dealt with by one single Ministry.
- (vi) The Central Advisory Board and State Boards should be given statutory status.
- (vii) There should be statutory Child Labour Ombudsman or Commission for investigation, resolution of grievances and disputes and for giving directions to employers and others.
- (viii) National and zonal institutes should be set up for for training and research relating to child labour problems.
- (ix) During Census operations and collection of data, child labour should be given particular attention.
- (x) The Child Labour (Prohibition and

Regulation) Act, 1986 and other allied Acts should be kept under constant and careful review.

- (xi) A comprehensive child labour code should be evolved.

II. Important Recommendations pertaining to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

1. The Act should contain a time-table with outer limits as to when it will come into force.
2. A uniform definition of child with reference to age is required.
3. There should be a provision to extend the definition of 'establishment' in Section 2 (iv) of the Act by means of notification and there should be no loophole for the organised sector or the units to exploit child labour.
4. There should be an enabling proviso to Section 3 to check exploitation of child labour under the guise of occupier carrying on a process with the aid of his family.
5. The advisory function of the Technical Advisory Committee under Section 5 (1) should be expanded and it should be able to receive petitions from individuals, etc. for addition of occupations and processes to the Schedule.
6. Section 12 relating to the display of the provisions of Sections 3 and 14, should be in Part II or in Part IV.
7. There should be a mandatory time-limit for enforcement of the provisions of the Act.
8. The penalty for violation should be increased under Section 14 (3) and

Section 15 and three-fourths of the fine imposed should be payable to the children or their guardians.

9. Proceedings under Section 16 of the Act should be completed within six months.
10. Under Section 17, non-Governmental organisations and their Heads may be notified as Inspectors.
11. Section 18 should contain a mandatory time-limit for preparation of rules.
12. The proviso to Section 21 (1) should be amended to provide for extension for a further period of 3 years.

III. *National Policy and Action Plan*

1. A white paper on child labour should be published.
2. The National Policy and Action Plan should spell out the details of objectives of the policy and the type of financial assistance to voluntary agencies and the apparatus which should be entrusted with child labour policy and programmes.
3. Specific strategy should be adopted for tackling problems of paid family workers, apprentices, wage earning workers and workers in certain establishments and in the unorganised sectors.
4. Welfare measures to child workers should include education facilities and vocational guidance.
5. Awareness programmes on massive scales should be undertaken to create public opinion and interest on problems of child labour.

Import of Sugar

269. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the price at which sugar was imported by Union Government during 1989, month-wise;

(b) the international prices prevailing on the dates on which each of these contracts were signed; and

(c) which were the supplying firms and who were/are their Indian agents representatives or functionaries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) A quantity of 2.27 lakh tonnes and 0.15 lakh tonnes of imported sugar arrived during the months of October, 1989 and November, 1989 respectively. The prices at which the sugar was imported were as under:—

<i>Quantity (in tonnes)</i>	<i>Price-US \$ Per Metric Tonne CIF (Indian Ports)</i>
1	2
35,809	517.80
48,100	519.50
13,000	521.00
1,09,850	520.80
35,000	519.00
2,41,750	

(b) The International price of sugar on the dates on which each of these contracts were signed were as under as per London Daily Price: