

(a) whether E.S.I. beneficiaries are allowed reimbursement of expenditure incurred on purchase of allopathic medicines prescribed for treatment in ESI Hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) whether similar facility is available to beneficiaries opting for treatment through ayurvedic system;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is proposed to allow uniform reimbursement facility in regard to treatment through both the systems?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Child Labour Population

358. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite several prohibitory laws, the number of working children in the country is the highest in the world;

(b) if so, the annual percentage of increase in the child labour in rural and urban areas since 1987 and how does it compare with the total child population in the country;

(c) the State where the percentage of child labour is highest and whether an analysis of the working of law enforcement machinery in the States has been made; and

(d) how Government propose to solve this problem?

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

(a) The data available in the International Labour Organisation's Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1988 indicate that in absolute terms, the number of child labour is the highest in India but as a percentage of the total labour force or the number of children, it is not so.

(b) The latest Census figures available are with reference to the year 1981 and those of National Sample Survey relate to the year 1987-88. It is not, therefore, possible to say whether there has been any increase or decrease in the number of child workers in the country since 1987.

(c) and (d). According to the 43rd round of National Sample Survey, the State of Meghalaya had the highest percentage of child labour among the children of age group 0-14 in Meghalaya.

Employment of children is prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1987; the Factories Act, 1948; the Mines Act, 1952; States Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts, etc. The State Governments are the appropriate Governments for enforcing these Acts in a majority of areas in which children work. All the State Governments have been addressed from time to time to strictly enforce the legal provisions relating to child labour.

HUDCO Assistance to Maharashtra

359. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes approved and financed by HUDCO for construction of