

Survey of Child Labour Force

1082. **PROF. RAM KRISHNA MORE :**
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to an All India survey sponsored by Government, about 44 million children are among the labour force of which one-sixth are of tender age; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to tackle the growing problem of child labour in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) The Ministry of Labour has rendered financial assistance to Operations Research, Group, Boroda for conducting a study entitled "All India Survey on Child Labour". According to the study the total number of working children is estimated to be 44 million. However, the Government has not accepted the findings of this study. According to the estimate made by the Planning Commission the number of child workers was 17.36 million as on 1st March, 1983.

(b) While it may not be possible in the near future to eliminate child labour completely in the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, it has been Government's consistent endeavour to ensure that children compelled to work by circumstances should not be exploited and should be able to work in better conditions of health and hygiene. Government has been rendering financial assistance to voluntary agencies for action-projects connected with the welfare of working children. Also, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Gurupadaswamy committee a Central Advisory Board on child labour has been set up to advise the Government on the problems of child labour. Many state Governments and Union Territories have set up State and District level advisory Boards on child Labour.

Closure of Plants in Udyogamandal Division of Fact in Kerala

1083. **PROF. P. J. KURIEN :**
SHRI V. S. VIJAYA-RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain plants in the Udyogamandal division of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited in Kerala have been closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these plants have produced in excess of their capacity last year; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to run these plants efficiently ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH). (a) and (b). The Cryolite Plant in the Udyogamandal Division of the Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore Limited (FACT) has been closed down due to un-economical operations and non-availability of new material.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Modernization of Bullock Cart

1084. **SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government contemplate modernisation of Bullock Cart to meet the energy needs; and

(b) if so, the details, thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government in

the Ministry of Shipping and Transport has been funding research on improved Bullock Cart design through (I) Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (II) Central Road Research Institute (CRR) research Institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. In addition, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also engaged in research through All India Co-ordinated Project and also through Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal. These Institutions have developed new Carts. The improvements relate to axle material, payload carrying capacity, bracking system, type of wheel etc Improved Bullock Carts manufactured by public and private organisations are available in the country. Commercial and Co-operative Banks provide loans to farmers for purchase of Bullock Caats.

Custodian General's Organisation

1085. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the Custodian General's Organisation set up to control the working of the notified sugar mills that are functioning under Central Government management;

(b) whether these mills, temporarily taken over by Custodian General's Organisation, are likely to be closed;

(c) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government so far as the question of absorbing the staff (workers) employed at present in Custodian General's Organisation is concerned; and

(d) whether the services of these employees of Custodian General's Organisation will be absorbed in any other department under the control of his Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH

DEO) : (a) The Custodian General's organisation, the expenditure on which is not from the Cosolidated Fund of Government of India, is a purely temporary organisation; set up to look after the working of the sugar mills taken over temporarily under the Sugar Under-Takings (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1978.

(b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). However, after the return of the taken over mills to their respective owners/State Governments, the Custodian General Organisation will have to be closed down and while those working on deputation in the organisation will be repatriated to their respective offices/Departments, the services of such members of the staff as were recruited from the open market will be dispensed with.

Frequency Modulation Transmission From Cochin T. V. Tower

1086. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints that in some areas in the country the reception of medium wave signals is very poor;

(b) if so, which are those areas and the steps proposed to improve the reception;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to start frequency modulation transmission; and

(d) whether Government will consider the proposal to start a frequency modulation transmission from Cochin T. V. tower ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas from where complaints have been received are mainly