

YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). As per the memorandum submitted by the Government of West Bengal and the Report of the Central Team which visited the State for assessment of the need for relief, the total cropped area in which damage is more than 50 per cent is 224,190 hectares, including 1978 hectares of pan boroj (betelvine orchards). Central assistance is provided at the rate of Rs. 200 per hectare as subsidy for agricultural inputs to enable the affected small and marginal farmers to raise a fresh crop.

Misuse of Cash Benefits under ESI Scheme in Kerala

1932. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that cash benefits under E.S.I. Scheme are being misused in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken to prevent such an abuse of the facility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ESI Corporation have advised the Government of Kerala to take the following administrative measures of controlling the misuse of cash benefits.

- (i) to withdraw the powers of IMOs to issue medical certificates and to constitute in their place panel of doctors for issue of medical certificates;
- (ii) to identify the doctors responsible for lax certification and to take suitable administrative/disciplinary action against them; and
- (iii) to restrict the issue of medical

certificates by Insurance Medical Officers upto 7 days.

The Government of Kerala are reported to have since withdrawn certification powers of *five* Insurance Medical Officers in 3 affected centres.

Child Labour

1933. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :
SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of children below 14 years of age working in organised and unorganised sectors in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that their number is on the increase;

(c) the number of child labour working under hazardous conditions, state-wise;

(d) the number out of them affected due to these hazards; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to stop exploitation of child labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The number of children working in the organised and unorganised sectors in country State-wise is not available. However, Statement-I showing the figures in the age group 0-14 years according to the 1981 Census State-wise is attached.

(b) There has been an increase in the total number of Child workers between the 1971 census and the 1981 census.

(c) and (d). The information is not available.

(e) Statement-II is given below.

Statement-I

Statement showing the main workers and marginal workers in the Age-group 0-14 as per 1981 census

Sl. No.	India/States/ U.Ts.	Main Workers	Marginal Workers
1	2	3	4
	India	11,168,819	2,423,547
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,754,187	197,124
2.	Bihar	893,611	208,152
3.	Gujarat	462,240	154,673
4.	Haryana	142,564	51,625
5.	Himachal Pradesh	60,401	39,223
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	109,073	149,364
7.	Karnataka	966,339	165,191
8.	Kerala	68,129	24,725
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1,372,067	326,530
10.	Maharashtra	1,263,793	293,964
11.	Manipur	17,809	2,408
12.	Meghalaya	32,169	5,748
13.	Nagaland	14,672	1,563
14.	Orissa	515,347	186,945
15.	Punjab	279,405	37,534
16.	Rajasthan	589,742	229,863
17.	Sikkim	7,913	647
18.	Tamil Nadu	871,313	103,742
19.	Tripura	19,796	4,408
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1,246,186	164,302
21.	West Bengal	523,524	81,738

1	2	3	4
Union Territories			
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		846	463
2. Arunachal Pradesh		14,983	2,966
3. Chandigarh		1,942	44
4. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		2,611	1,004
5. Delhi		24,855	862
6. Goa Daman and Diu		6,806	2,572
7. Lakshadweep		31	25
8. Mizoram		4,534	1,782
9. Pondicherry		3,175	431

Note : 1. All India figures are based on 5% area sample data and exclude Assam where 1981 Census could not be conducted.

2. Major States figures are based on 20% sample area data except Uttar Pradesh for which data are based on 5% area sample.

3. Minor states and U.Ts. Figures are based on 100%.

4. All India figures may not tally with all the states figures because of sampling and rounding off.

Statement-II

Government have taken the following measures to stop exploitation of child labour :

1. The employment of children has been banned in factories, mines and certain other hazardous employments.
2. The Employment of Children Act which bans the employment of children below 14 years and 15 years of age in certain employments has been amended to make the penalty for violation of its provisions more stringent.
3. A Central Advisory Board on Child Labour has been set up to render advice to the Central Government on the problems of child labour. The terms of

reference states among other things, that the Board would (a) suggest legislative measures as well as welfare measures for the welfare of working children and (b) review the progress of welfare measures for working children. Several State Governments/Union Territories have also set up such Advisory Boards on Child Labour.

4. Two pilot projects to protect and look after the welfare of (1) Children working in match industry in and around Sivakasi (2) Carpet weaving children of Mirzapur-Bhadohi areas of UP. have been taken up by the Ministry of Labour. The Sivakasi project has been launched in April, 1986. The Mirzapur-Bhadohi project is being finalised in consultation with the Government of U.P. and Ministries concerned.

5. Voluntary organisations of child labour are being given financial assistance for action projects relating to nutrition, health, non-formal education and vocational training of working children.
6. A Bill entitled "The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation), Bill, 1986" has been passed in the Rajya Sabha on 5.11.86 which intends to :

- (a) ban children below 14 years from certain industries and identify further industries/ employments from which they should be banned;
- (b) regulate the working conditions of children in other employments;
- (c) enhance the penalties for violation of provisions relating to the employment of children.

Nickel Plant in Sukinda in Orissa

1934. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a 10,000 tonne capacity nickel plant in Sukinda area in Orissa;
- (b) whether Government have taken steps to import suitable foreign technology for the purpose; and
- (c) what other steps have been taken to expedite the setting up of the nickel plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) to (c). In April, 1974, sanction was accorded for setting up a 4,800 tonnes per annum nickel extraction plant based on Sukinda nickel deposit in Orissa. The technology, when tried on a pilot plant scale, did not yield satisfactory results. It, therefore, became necessary to evaluate the available data. The evaluation undertaken revealed the need for additional exploration, laboratory and pilot plant test work before preparation of

a feasibility report. It was found that the cost of carrying out further studies required would be about Rs. 48.71 crores. In view of the severe constraint on resources and the adverse economics of producing nickel at Sukinda, the project was not pursued. However, a Technical Group has been constituted by the Department of Mines in April, 1986 to formulate plans for development of an appropriate technology for extraction of nickel from the Sukinda Nickel deposits.

Closure of Fertilizer Units of H.P.C.

1935. SHRI S M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Fertilizer Workers' Federation of India has represented to Government about the proposed closure and scrapping of three public sector fertilizer plants in the Eastern region;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (c) whether the decision to scrap these three plants is final ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) Yes, Sir; a representation about the fertilizer units at Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup, has been received.

(b) and c). No decision has been taken to close these units.

Financial Assistance to Karnataka for Development of Small and Medium Towns

1936. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the small and medium towns of Karnataka which were given grants under Integrated development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme during 1986-87;
- (b) the number of small and medium towns of Karnataka for which Government of Karnataka had recommended for 100 per cent grants under the Scheme; and