

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 3, 1979/Vaisakha 13,  
1901 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of  
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

\*969. DR. BIJOY MONDAL:  
SHRI K. S. VEERABHA-  
DRAPPA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAM-  
ENTARY AFFAIRS AND LA-  
BOUR be pleased to state the names  
of the personnel of the Committee  
on Child Labour and the time by  
which it will submit its report to  
the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIA-  
MENTARY AFFAIRS AND LA-  
BOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VAR-  
MA): A list of members of the  
Committee on Child Labour is plac-  
ed on the Table of the House. The  
Committee has been requested to  
submit its report within a period of  
six months.

#### List

*Members of the Committee on Child  
Labour*

- |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Shri M. S Gurupad-<br>swamy   | Chairman |
| 2. Shri S. W. Dhabr, M P         | }        |
| 3. Smt. Kamala Bahuguna,<br>M.P. |          |
| 4. Smt. Margaret Aiva,<br>M. P.  |          |

5. Shri Musaffr Singh,  
Deputy Director,  
National Institute of  
Public Corporation and  
Child Development,  
New Delhi.

6. Miss M. Khandekar,  
Tata Institute of Social  
Sciences, Bombay.

7. Dr. Ram K. Vepa,  
Development Commis-  
sioner, Small Scale  
Industries, Ministry of  
Industry, New Delhi.

8. Shri V. S. Bhashyam,  
Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Law, Jus-  
tice and Company  
Affairs, (Legislative De-  
partment), New Delhi.

9. Shri M. M. Rajendran,  
Joint Secretary,  
Department of Social  
Welfare, Ministry of  
Education and Social  
Welfare, New Delhi.

10. Shri G. D. Bailur,  
Joint Secretary,  
Department of Rural  
Development, Ministry  
of Agriculture and Iri-  
gation, New Delhi.

11. Shri M. V. S. Rao,  
I dviser Employment,  
Planning Commission,  
New Delhi.

12. Shri K. Sunivasan,  
Labour Commissioner,  
Government of Kerala,  
Trivandrum.

13. Shri P. V. Bhatt,  
Secretary,  
Labour Social Welfare  
and Tribal Department,  
Government of Gujarat,  
Gandhinagar.

14. Shri Saran Prasad,  
Special Secretary (La-  
bour), Government of  
Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow

15. Shri Madhav Sinha,  
Labour Commissioner,  
Government of Bihar,  
Patna.

Members

16. Shri V. P. Sawhney, Member-Secretary, Director-General (LW) Ministry of Labour, New Delhi

**DR. BIJOY MONDAL:** The Government of India is going to observe International Year of the Child with its symbol—sun and slate. The sun probably signifies health and the slate signifies education. The exploitation of the children in India is very great. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the number of child labour in this country which is engaged in different industries—agriculture, plantation, etc? Is it a fact that the exploitation of the children is still going on on a large scale in this country and what steps Government is going to take to check the condition of the child workers and whether in view of the urgency. . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** This is a chain of questions.

**DR. BIJOY MONDAL:** In view of this International Year, Government proposes to . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is not an international year for questions

**DR. BIJOY MONDAL:** I would like to know the steps that the Government is going to take this year. What interim measures are going to be taken to stop this unjust, improper and inhuman exploitation of the child labour?

**SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA:** It is well-known that this is the international year of the child. There are many problems relating to the child or children. Some of them relate to the area of responsibility of this Ministry and some to that of other Ministries. The main question that the hon. Member raised was about the number of children who are employed. 10.7 m. children in this country are employed in some form of work or the other.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA:** The population of this country is sufficiently high and therefore there must be some proportion between different sections of the population and different age groups. This is not unknown to the hon. member. If I had stated that it would have been derived as nothing that could be described as a piece of profound wisdom.

10.7 million children work in this country, of them 7.9 million are boys 2.5 million are girls. 78 per cent of the children employed are in the rural areas in vocations or occupations connected with cultivation or crafts.

82 per cent are engaged in forestry, fishing and plantation. Approximately 6 per cent are engaged in household employment and other similar occupations in urban areas. The rest are employed in trade, commerce and other occupations in urban and semi-urban areas

As far as the measures that are going to be taken in this year are concerned, the fact that this Committee has been appointed shows that the Government is concerned to see that this year a thorough scrutiny is conducted of the adequacy of the legislation that we have to protect children and the efficacy of implementation of the legislation that we have, and of the need to find out ways to improve the efficacy and coverage of the legislation.

**DR. BIJOY MONDAL:** Will the Government constitute similar committees in the States also to prevent such exploitation? How many raids have been conducted for the last one year to find out whether the Child Labour Act is being implemented properly? How many cases have been instituted against the offenders?

**SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA:** I am afraid the second part of the question is different from the main question, and I would require no-

tice to give an answer about the number of raids conducted because the main question relates to the committee as such.

As far as the first part of the question is concerned. I must say that the hon. Member will find from the existing legislation that the State Governments are empowered, and they are the concerned authorities, to include whatever occupations they would like to include in the schedule of the Act.

SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH: Will the hon. Minister consider the suggestion that the Committee which has been formed does not include any representative from societies and associations concerned with the child labour and that they should be included in that? Will the Minister also consider the suggestion that there are a large number of children who are handicapped and that their problem should be considered by this Committee?

SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA: I am afraid the hon. Member is not right when he says that the institutions and organisations related to the field of child labour are not associated with this Committee. His information is incorrect. The composition of the Committee is such that there are representatives of the State Governments, and there are representatives of organisations which are interested in the field of child labour.

Therefore, though the Committee is a compact, committee, care has been taken to ensure representation of all those who can contribute in the work of the committee.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is the International Year of the Child. Therefore, I would like to know: apart from appointing the committee on child labour there are so many other things which should be done by bringing legislations and

making ad hoc arrangements of financial assistance for providing cloth, education and stopping exploitation so far as children are concerned. Is there any other programme or legislation to improve the situation in the field of providing employment, stopping exploitation by the society, their improvement and progress?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are not dealing with the grown-up children now.

SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure you will be patient enough to concede that since this is an International Year of the Child, those who are interested in spoilt children, those who are grown up children and those who never grow up can all ask questions. Therefore you should not shut out any Supplementary, I beg to submit.

Sir, as my hon. friend, Mr. Lakkappa, said, there is need for a comprehensive programme to attend to the problems of children in various areas during this year. As far as the labour Ministry is concerned, its primary responsibility is to see that there is no exploitation of child labour, that children are not employed in hazardous occupations and that there are regulations to govern conditions of work to ensure safety, to ensure protection etc., for those who are compelled to work in occupations where it is not possible immediately to prevent the employment of child labour. But there are other areas like the field of education, health etc. where too programmes have to be undertaken, and the hon. Member, I am sure, is aware of the fact that such programmes have been outlined. There is a National Committee which has been set up with the Prime Minister himself, if I remember correctly, as the Chairman for the work of this year and programmes have been outlined to ensure that children have

the benefit of education, programmes to remove the hardships and handicaps which today are responsible for children not going to school or dropping out of school, like the provision of free uniforms, free education, free text-books etc. Therefore, the effort of the Government, is to ensure that there is a comprehensive all-round programme this year to attend to the problems of children and to ensure that children receive the attention that they are entitled to receive in a society like ours.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the experience in the matter of constituting committees for making the reports is such that invariably the time is extended, may I know whether, in view of the fact that this is the International Year of the Child, the Government will ensure that this report will be received by them within the prescribed time limit of six months? And may I also know whether he will give us the broad terms of reference of this Committee, and finally whether he is not aware of the fact that although the Committee is compact and well-constituted by having the representatives of the Centre as well as of the States, nonetheless the official representation is loaded and voluntary bodies are proportionately under-represented? May I know whether Government, therefore, will appoint additional members to ensure that this deficiency is met?

SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA: Sir, the terms of reference of the Committee are:

(i) Examine, existing laws, their adequacy and implementation and suggest corrective action to be taken to improve implementation and to remedy defects;

(ii) Examine the dimensions of child labour, the occupations in which children are employed etc. and suggest new areas where laws abolishing regulating the employment of children can be introduced.

(iii) Suggest welfare measures, training and other facilities which would be introduced to benefit children in employment.

It is true, Sir, that sometimes committees take more time than is anticipated. This happens to Parliamentary committees as well as other committees. The effort of the Government and the Members and Chairman of the Committee will be to see that the Committee submits its report within the time limit prescribed.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: What about the officials being more than the non-officials?

SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA: Sir, it is always possible to feel that more people should be represented on a committee. One has to have a balance between the desire to have a wide representation to ensure the representation of everybody who is interested, and the need to see that the committee is a compact committee.

**Dum-Dum Junction as Terminus Station**

\*973. SHRI AMAR ROYFRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dum-Dum Junction is terminus Station for the trains which are coming from the North Bengal, Assam, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh towards Calcutta and has to provide facilities for the long distance passengers;