

employment of children is prohibited. This list is being enlarged from time to time on the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Committee set up under section 5 of the Act. As of date, employment of children is prohibited in 13 occupations and 51 processes. Employment in carpet industry occurs in the list of 13 occupations contained in part 'A' of the schedule to the Act. The Act also provides for penalties for violation of the provisions of the law. All the State/UT Governments have an enforcement machinery to enforce the provisions of the law in relation to both prohibition as well as regulation. The Central Government monitors implementation of the provisions of the Act through periodical returns.

A National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has also been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Labour Minister and with Secretaries of 10 Ministries/Depts. as members. The Committee meets from time to time to take stock of the situation in relation to both prohibition and regulation on the ground. Children working in hazardous occupations are withdrawn from work and rehabilitated under the scheme of National Child Labour Projects through non-formal education, nutrition, check-up of health and vocational skill training. So far 77 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic States for coverage of 1.5 lakh children.

Elimination of Child Labour cannot be the mandate of one Ministry/Deptt. or agency. It is a national concern. The National/Agenda for Governance contains an item on progressive measures for elimination of child labour. The Ministry of Labour which is nodal ministry for this purpose works in close coordination and collaboration with other Ministries/Depts. of Government of India such as Health, Family Welfare, Women & Child Development, Urban Affairs & Employment, Rural Areas & Employment, Science and Technology etc. The Government of India also exchanges the collaboration and support of the International Labour Organisation through the programme 'International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour' (IPEC).

(c) and (d) Demands have been received from NGOs for setting up of a National Commission on Bonded and Child Labour. The issue was placed before the Labour Ministers' conference held in 1992 when a Committee of 13 State Labour Ministers was constituted. As the Committee could not meet due to various reasons, the meeting of State Labour Ministers was called on 18.5.95. The general consensus which emerged from this meeting was that in view of the National Commission on Human Rights having been set up, there is no need for a separate commission on bonded and child labour. In the meanwhile, Government have taken a decision

to set up a second National Commission on Labour with a time-bound mandate.

SS

Railways
New Suburban Station

3563. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from any party or organisation for creating a New Suburban railway station on the Central Railway Suburban Network in Mumbai between Sion and Matunga railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SS-8a

Doordarshan Returning to Sycophancy

3564. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "DD is returning to sycophancy" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated January 20, 1999; and

(b) if so, the details of the facts and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All programme matters including news telecast by Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous body and the Government do not interfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati have reported that its news bulletins are prepared purely on the consideration of news value of stories and keeping in view its policy guidelines. It has further reported that being national broadcaster, it is the duty of Doordarshan to ensure that sensitive matters particularly those affecting national security or harmonious relations between different communities are covered in a responsible manner keeping in view possible ramifications of

their coverages. Whenever the statements of Prime Minister have important news value justifying their inclusion as a top story, it is being done.

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Railways

Functioning of Newly Created Zones

3565. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the newly created zones have not been made fully functional;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the infrastructures are likely to be provided to make them functional;

(c) whether the jurisdiction of newly created zones has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Zones have been planned to be set up in a phased manner over a period of five years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

9

Air Force Flying Station in Orissa

3566. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Air Force Flying Station for training activities in Orissa is being set up; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be completed and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Labour

1-91

Hospitals for Labourers

3567. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the labourers working in the Beedi and Cement industries are falling victims to diseases like T.B., anaemia, malnutrition and cancer;

(b) if so, the estimated number of labourers and the number of labourers who met their untimely death due to lack of treatment, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open new hospitals to prevent diseases in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) While the studies carried out in our country have shown that the persons working in Beedi and Cement Industries are exposed to health problems, it is however not a fact that most of the labourers working in Beedi and Cement Industry are becoming victims of T.B., Anaemia, Malnutrition and Cancer. Beedi workers develop respiratory problems and get afflicted by pulmonary diseases partly on account of exposures to/inhalation of tobacco and partly on account of unclean and unhygienic working conditions. Pollution in cement industry is caused mainly by dust produced while grinding limestone, Coal and Klinker. All the cement plants are required to take anti-pollution measures for controlling pollution and no factory is allowed to operate before taking prior approval of the Pollution Control Board. No complaints have been reported regarding labourers becoming victims of T.B., Anaemia, Malnutrition and Cancer in the Cement Industry. The State Pollution Control Boards have been monitoring the level of pollution caused by cement plants on a regular basis. As per the information available for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96, the estimated number of beedi and mine workers who took treatment for the pulmonary diseases in the Labour Welfare Organisation hospitals/dispensaries was 1,68,477 and 1,78,277 respectively. Data related to State-wise break-up of mortality due to Anaemia, T.B., Malnutrition and Cancer in beedi and cement workers is not maintained.

(c) and (d) Hospitalisation of T.B. patients is required only in extremely serious cases. The disease can be effectively cured by domiciliary treatment which is the recommended method of treatment. National Tuberculosis Control Programme is implemented in the rural districts through District Tuberculosis Centres integrated with primary health care infrastructure and in cities/big towns through Tuberculosis Clinics. This is being further strengthened by introducing revised strategy covering a population of 271 million in a phased manner. Labour Welfare Organisation in the Ministry of Labour who are running dispensaries/hospitals for beedi and mine workers have sanctioned 51 new dispensaries for beedi workers in various parts of the country. A 50-bedded hospital for beedi workers is also coming