

Regarding issues pertaining to volunteers engaged with National Child Labour Project

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BERHAMPUR): Sir, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has been implementing the National Child Labour Project scheme for rescue and rehabilitation of child labourers under which the children in the age group of 9 to 14 years are rescued from work, enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres and are provided with bridge education before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Now, the NCLP scheme has been subsumed under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme with effect from 1st April, 2021. The number of children who were rescued or withdrawn from work, rehabilitated and mainstreamed under NCLP scheme during 2021-22 and 2022-23 were about 18,137 and 13,761 respectively. The parents of the child labourers are benefitted from various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes by different Ministries and Departments such as Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Women and Child Development, Social Justice, and Tribal Welfare, which improves their family income and enables the working children to attend school.

However, thousands of volunteers who have so far made success of the NCLP scheme during its long journey in the country have not been protected by the Government. At this stage, after working for more than 20 to 25 years in life, these volunteers will neither get any other alternative engagements nor will be able to compete with the youngsters. Now, these thousands of volunteers are helpless and struggling for their family livelihood. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment to please consider the issues of thousands of volunteers who are so far engaged with the NCLP scheme, and made it a success in the country. Thank you.