

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:42

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001

WORK FORCE OF CHILDREN

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Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has the largest work-force of children in the world;
- (b) if so, the details of the children work-force comprising children below 10 years, between 10 to 14 years and between 14 to 18 years separately;
- (c) the number and details of children work-force in begging, sex-workers, criminal-gang of pick-pockets, smuggling etc. and in hazardous industries enumerated under the Constitution and the law, separately State-wise;
- (d) the estimated number of such child workers under bondage;
- (e) the number of those emancipated from bondage and hazardous jobs during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and the current year and enrolled informal education system; and
- (f) the steps taken by the government to curb the present prevalent practices of child labours?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (c): According to the 1991 census data, the number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. According to some estimates, India may have the largest number of child labour population in the world. The census figures relate to child workers in the age group 5-14 years. State-wise details are at Annexure. Data on children work-force in begging, sex-workers, criminal-gang of pick-pockets, smuggling etc. and industries wise details are not maintained.

(d) & (e): The Bonded Labour System(Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any difference between child and adult bondage. The Act also does not make any distinction amongst boned labour on the asis of sex, caste, creed etc. As such, separate data on the number of children bonded is not reported by the State Governments. During the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as many as 8195 and 5256 bonded labourers have been released and rehabilitated respectively. In the current financial year (2001-2002) up to 30th June 2001, a s many a s 3844 bonded labourers have been released and rehabilitated. The above figure includes all categories of bonded labours.

(f): Through the schemes of National Child Labour Projects and Grant-in-aid,attempts are being made to rehabilitate children withdrawn from work. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children under the age of 14, is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed in the Schedule to the Act. Additions to the Schedule are being made from time to time on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee. Awareness Generation activities are also being taken up at the district level.