

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:293
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
REHABILITATION SCHEME FOR EMPLOYED CHILDREN
BIR SING MAHATO;V. VETRISILVAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that children are being employed by some State Governments including Tamil Nadu in their own projects;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken up the issue with such States and has also submitted a rehabilitation scheme to the Hon'ble Supreme Court about four lakhs of children employed in hazardous industries across the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto;
- (d) whether any allocation of funds for rehabilitation of such children have been made by the Planning Commission too; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in rehabilitating them so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.293 FOR 22.12.2003 REGARDING 'REHABILITATION SCHEME FOR EMPLOYED CHILDREN'

(a) Government is not aware of children being employed by the State Governments in their projects. However, no child is being employed in state government projects of Tamil Nadu as per information received from them.

(b) & (c) The issue of the elimination of child labour is taken up by the Union Government with the State Governments regularly. On the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the M.C.Mehta Vs State Government of Tamil Nadu Case No.465, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has formulated a Scheme titled 'Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in Need of Care & Protection' and submitted to the Hon'ble Court. The Scheme aims at providing opportunities including non-formal education, vocational training, etc. to working street children to facilitate their entry/reentry into mainstream education in cases where they have either not attended the learning system or where for some reasons their education has been discontinued.

The Scheme will lend support to projects in urban areas which have not been already covered by the existing schemes of the Ministry of Labour. This scheme would provide support for the wholesome development of child workers and potential child workers especially those who have none or ineffective family support.

The Government is already implementing the National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in the country. In the 9th Plan 100 districts were taken up under the NCLPs for elimination of child labour before the above scheme was submitted to the Supreme Court.

Under the 10th Plan the NCLPs are proposed to be expanded by including 50 new districts in the first instance with a provision to include 100 districts more during the remaining part of the Plan period.

(d) & (e) The 10th Plan (2002-07) outlay for the above Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is Rs.45 crore. The outlay for the NCLPs in the country during the 9th Plan was Rs.249 crore and the approved outlay for the 10th Plan is Rs.607 crore. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's directions regarding implementation of the Scheme are awaited.