

**International Programme for Elimination of  
Child Labour**

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\*405. SHRI SNANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL :  
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds made available under Interational Programme for Elimination of Child Labour during the last three years have been fully utilised, and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent to which success has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The allocation for India under International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) for the two biennia 1992-93 and 1994-95 was US \$ 3.65 million. The allocation for the year 1996 is US \$ 0.5 million. Out of this total allocation of US \$ 4.15 million during 1992-96 so far an amount of US \$ 3.3 million has been released by IPEC to the implementing agencies. Under IPEC a total of 118 Action Programmes have been funded, directly benefiting around 80,000 working children.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether any scheme has been formulated to monitor the programmes prepared by the Government? If so, the details of that should be furnished. In which year, 950 children that were engaged in the work have been identified in Gujarat? The actual number of children may far exceed this. Much more children are engaged in the work in each of the states. I would like to know the procedure of identification adopted by the Govt. and the progress made in this scheme in Gujarat during the last three years.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, the hon. Member is confused with various programmes. We have three programmes in the Government in the area of child labour. One is the IPEC. Of course, it is an ILO sponsored programmes. As you know, we have the Grant-in-Aid Scheme which is a small scheme of about Rs. 1 crore per year. The third programme is the National Child Labour Project. This particular question is related to the international programme. As far as this programme is concerned, it has so far covered around 80,000 children.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any project under IPEC working in Gujarat? I think, that is what he would like to know.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can find out and inform the hon. Member later on.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it is not provided at present, how can it be given later on...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I have the figures. In Gujarat, we have approved five projects covering about 1,350 children...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Why have you identified only this many children in such a scheme?

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though, he has admitted that the Gurupad Swamy Committee has submitted its report on Child Labour, to the Government but he has not told as to what action has been taken by the Government on that report. The hon. Minister has told that out of 4.15 million, only 3.3 million have been allocated. What are the reasons for this shortfall? In which state the number of Child Labour is the highest and what is their number in Gujarat? Whether the Government has any plan to cover them.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : This question is concerned with IPEC. As far as the IPEC programme is concerned, 22,890 children have been covered in West Bengal. This is the largest number in any State which this programme has covered. As far as Gujarat is concerned, as I said, about 1,350 children have been covered.

I need a separate notice for the other question which he has asked about the commission.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : I have asked as to what are the reasons for less allocation?... (Interruptions) What are the reasons for curtailing the allocation from 4.15 million to 3.3 million?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : This is an international programme. We have to do it. They have given this much amount to our country. This programme has so far covered about US \$ 3.3 million and the balance will be given to other aiding agencies.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH "NIDAR" : Speaker, Sir, this is a vital issue. Unfortunately, we have not made any difference between mastering an art and labour as we are following the western culture. I have a small question. I would like to know that if the child labours are covered under the programmes, what arrangements

have been made or proposed to be made by the Govt. for the survival of those families in which children are the only earning hands for their dependent old mother, grandmother or grandfather?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any programme to compensate the earnings of those children who have been removed from the work?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, we have a 'National Project on Elimination of Child Labour'. Under that scheme, those children who have been taken out from hazardous industries, have been paid a subsidy at the rate of Rs. 100 per child.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos. One sentence question, please.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, nothing is moving in this country regarding elimination of child labour. Wherever there is child labour, they are still in persistence.

In this regard, public awareness is very much essential. Is the hon. Minister or the Central Government ready to involve the trade unions as well as non-governmental organisations to give publicity to eliminate the child labour? Is there any scheme with the Government to get the involvement of public, the trade unions and the non-governmental organisations in this regard?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Yes, Sir, we are including the trade unions and the non-governmental organisations.

Recently the Supreme Court had given a verdict in this regard. We have to go through that judgement thoroughly and I think after that, we have to re-look the entire issue.

#### Objectives of BOLT Scheme

\*406. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the objectives of own your wagon scheme and BOLT scheme launched in 1992 and 1994 respectively;

(b) whether the schemes have had very poor response in attracting the private investment;

(c) the details of achievements of the schemes and reasons for poor performance; and

(d) the reaction of the Government about further implementation of these schemes?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) The objective of 'Own Your Wagon' and 'BOLT' Schemes is to supplement the resources of the Railways for expansion of rail transport capacity through private sector participation in funding.

(b) The response to 'Own Your Wagon' Schemes has been, by and large, encouraging. The response to 'BOLT' Scheme has not been encouraging for fixed infrastructure projects.

(c) and (d). Since inception of 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme in August, 1992, orders for 11580 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been received and 7043 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been procured till November, 1996. Under the 'BOLT' Scheme, 2 gauge conversion projects (Mudkhed-Adilabad and Viramgam - Mehsana) and one rolling stock project (for 3050 wagons in terms of four wheelers) have been awarded. The poor performance of 'BOLT' Scheme for infrastructure projects is attributable to high cost quoted by the bidders and inadequate response to the Scheme. However, on the experience gained, efforts are made to make the schemes more attractive.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, the objective of the wagon scheme is to free the railways from investing in the procurement of wagons, acquisition of rolling stock and expansion of the railway network into the backward areas, and to attract the small private investment in the industrial and commercial activities and in new railway lines so that overall development in the railways could be accelerated.

But only 7043 wagons have so far been procured during the five years of inception of your own wagon scheme. It shows the failure of the scheme to attract private investors.

Therefore, Sir, I want to know from the Government as to what specific measures are being taken to attract private investment in the railways so that the railways could be free from investing in wagon and other developments.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has rightly said that the scheme was started in 1992 under 'Own Your Wagon Scheme'. Since we do not have enough resources to meet all the requirements, hence own your wagon scheme was launched in 1992. Our target was to acquire 5 thousand wagons every year there from but the scheme did not prove very successful and did not evince special interest. So improvements were made in the scheme. The lease charges which were initially 14.5 percent for ten years in 1992, were hiked to 16 percent for 10 years in 1994. Besides, we have also provided several exceptions which inter alia means that