

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:757

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006

ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the initiatives taken to eradicate child labour remains elusive even in sectors such as construction or mining that were declared hazardous decades ago;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the growth in the number of child workers is driven by the new economy and children are most vulnerable to new forms of contract labour without any social security;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (e) the action plan initiated by the Union Government to eliminate child labour by 2007;
- (f) whether any direction to State Governments has also been given; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (g): A Statement is Annexed.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (G) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757 FOR ANSWER ON 27.11.06 REGARDING 'ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR' BY SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL AND SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

(a) & (b): As per the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, children below the age of 14 years are prohibited from working in hazardous occupations and processes. At present, there are 15 occupations and 57 processes listed as hazardous under the Schedule to the Act, which includes Construction and Mines.

Elimination of child labour is an area of great concern and commitment for the Government of India. The problem of child labour is a socio-economic evil which is a direct consequence of poverty & illiteracy. Considering the magnitude and the nature of the problem, therefore, Government has adopted a gradual & sequential approach to withdraw and rehabilitate working children, beginning with those working in hazardous occupations/processes. Efforts are being made to withdraw children working in hazardous occupations and processes for their rehabilitation.

(c) to (e): There is no evidence to indicate that there is increase in child labour due to the new economy. Child labour is a socio-economic problem which is a direct consequence of poverty and illiteracy. Realizing the multifaceted and complex nature of this problem, Government had embarked on a holistic and multi-pronged programme to eliminate child labour from the country. The Government strategy, based on the National Policy on Child Labour announced in 1987, involves strong enforcement of the existing Act with simultaneous efforts towards rehabilitation of both parents and children through project based Action Plan and linkages with the poverty eradication and income generation programmes of the Government.

The Government of India initiated the National Child labour Project Scheme (NCLP) in 1988 to rehabilitate the working children starting with 9 Child Labour endemic districts of the country. The scheme has been progressively expanded to cover 250 districts of the country during the 10th Plan.

(f) & (g): As State Government are appropriate government for enforcement of Act in their respective areas, directions are regularly being given to them for strict enforcement, creating public awareness on the issue and for the effective implementation of the NCLP Scheme.