

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:163  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004  
ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR  
Pathak Shri Brajesh

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

- (a) whether the State Governments are implementing the policy formulated by the Union Government with regard to abolition of child labour and the verdict of the Hon`ble Supreme Court passed in this regard in 1986;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to implement the policy with regard to abolition of child labour; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 163 FOR 13.12.2004 REGARDING ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR

(a) Yes , Sir.

(b) Government of India enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act in 1986. The National Policy on Child Labour formulated by the Union Government in 1987 flows from this Act. The State Governments are implementing this policy as well as the verdict of the Hon`ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465/86 on 10.12.1996. The Hon`ble Court, in its judgment, had given directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from the work and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. The status of the implementation of Hon`ble Court's directions is periodically obtained from State Governments and the compliance of the same is reported to the Hon`ble Court in the form of affidavits filed by the Ministry of Labour & Employment from time to time.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) & (e) The National Policy on Child Labour envisages a sequential action-oriented approach for the abolition of child labour starting with children working in most hazardous occupations to covering all forms of child labour. In keeping with this Policy, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme was initiated in 12 districts with the objective of withdrawing & rehabilitating children working in identified hazardous occupations and processes. This Scheme was extended to cover 100 districts in 13 States by the end of the 9th Plan. This has now been expanded to cover 250 districts in 20 States in the 10th Plan. Besides this, the Government of India has also been increasing the number of hazardous occupations and processes listed under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to cover larger number of working children under its rehabilitation scheme.

The strategy in the 10th Plan would be to ensure that all working children below 9 years of age will be directly put into schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Older children in the age group of 9 -14 years will be mainstreamed into formal schools after passing through the bridging school mechanism. Mid-day meal, Stipend, vocational training and health checks are essential components of the scheme. Under the 10th Plan, a greater emphasis is being laid upon convergence of NCLP scheme with the on-going developmental schemes of various Ministries/Departments for benefiting the working children and their families.