

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:331

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007

INCREASE IN CHILD LABOUR

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

- (a) whether the instances of child labour are continuing despite a ban on it in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to some State Governments in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments thereto;
- (e) whether the Union Government has any mechanism for proper monitoring of the implementation of the ban;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Union Government to effectively curb child labour?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 15 occupations and 57 processes. However, Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, government is following a gradual and sequential approach of first covering the children working in hazardous occupations/ processes. Census is the most authentic data on child labour in the country. As per Census 2001, there are 12.6 million working children in country out of which about 12 lakhs are working in hazardous occupations/processes.

(c) & (d): Based on their reviews, the National Human Rights Commission from time to time issues notices to various State Governments. The State Governments are required to submit their action taken reports directly to the NHRC.

(e) & (f): Government monitors the implementation of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 regularly through periodical reports submitted by the State Governments/UTs which are the appropriate Government for implementation of the Act in their respective areas. Apart from this, the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) also reviews the implementation of the Act. Reviews of the implementation of the Act are also done during various Zonal and Regional level meetings held with the state governments.

(g): There are stringent provisions under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. As per Section 14 of the Act, any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is banned under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. For rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, Government is implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, these children are put into Special Schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc.