

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:145

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) the number of children including bonded child labourers identified, rescued and rehabilitated from various sectors during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases registered and action taken against the guilty during the said period, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to eradicate and rehabilitate the rescued children, particularly in the `beedi` industry and to ensure stringent punishment to the guilty persons; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 145 FOR ANSWER ON 08.03.2010 REGARDING ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR BY SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR; SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR.

(a): The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 Occupations and 65 Processes which include bidi industry. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not distinguish between Child Bonded Labour and Adult Bonded Labour. The number of child labourers rescued and rehabilitated during the last three years and current year is placed at Annexure. I. The number of bonded labourers including children rescued during the same period is placed at Annexure. II

(b): As per the information available, State-wise and year wise details of prosecutions launched and convictions obtained during last three years is placed at Annexure. III.

(c) & (d): Employment of children below the age of 14 years is prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. State/UT Governments are the appropriate governments for enforcement of the provision of these acts in the states sphere. As and when any violation is detected, action is taken according to law.

For the rehabilitation of the rescued children, the Government's National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme is operational in 266 districts of the country. Under the scheme, children withdrawn from work are enrolled in the special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc and mainstreamed into formal education system. Further, Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, 1976 provides education, health care, housing and recreational facilities to the workers and their families engaged in beedi industry.