

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1744
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011
INCREASE IN CHILD LABOUR
Kumar Shri P.;Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the latest report of the International Labour Organisation has stated that the global financial crisis has led to an increase in the number of child labourers in developing countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial measures taken by the Government to counter the child labour menace in the country;
- (c) whether many of the State Governments have sought changes in the law dealing with child labour; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the changes sought by the State Governments and the response of the Central Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) & (b): The ILO Global Report on Child Labour 2010 (Accelerating Action Against Child Labour) mentions that the global number of child labourers has declined from 222 million to 215 million, or 3 percent, over the period 2004 to 2008, representing a "slowing down of the global pace of reduction". The report has also expressed concern that the global economic crisis could "further brake" progress toward the global target of elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016. The Government is implementing the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, which prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for 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/-. As a rehabilitation measures, the Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 266 districts in 20 States, under which children withdrawn from work are admitted into special schools, where these children are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc. before they are mainstreamed into regular education system.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.