

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1833

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

BAN ON CHILD LABOUR

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

- (a) whether child labour is increasing inspite of a ban on it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of child labourers in the country;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to eradicate child labour system completely from the country;
- (d) whether any convictions have taken place during the last three years on charges of engaging child labour;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to remove the word "Regulation" from the title of "Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986" through an amendment in order to impose total ban on child labour;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to empower the parents of the children engaged in child labour; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) & (b): No, Madam. As per Census 2001 figures there were 1.26 crore working children in the age group of 5-14. However, the Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the number of working children were estimated 90.75 lakh, which shows decline trend.

(c): The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, 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/-. Further, Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 266 districts in 20 States wherein 3.39 lakhs child labourers are enrolled in the special schools where these children provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc., before mainstreaming into regular education system.

(d) & (e): State/Union Territory Governments are the appropriate authority for enforcement of provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in the areas under their jurisdiction. As per the available information, 2088 Convictions are made during 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09. State-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(f): No, Madam.

(g) & (h): The Government has constituted a Core Group on convergence of various welfare schemes to ensure that the families of the child labour are given priority for their upliftment.