

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4363

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

CHILD LABOUR IN HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENT

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

- (a) whether children are being exploited and employed in many hazardous environment such as carpet/crackers/beedi industry/cotton seed farms, circuses etc. in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and numbers of child labourers working in hazardous environment in the country;
- (c) the action taken against such employers to discourage the use of children as servants/labourers and also to ensure that such exploitation does not occur;
- (d) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to take any action like immediate cancellation of licences of firms found engaging in child labour; and
- (e) whether the huge fund allocation made by the Government for the welfare of child labourers has not been utilized well?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

- (a) & (b): As per Census 2001 figures there were 1.26 crore working children in the age group of 5-14, out of which 12 lakh children were engaged in hazardous occupations and processes including carpet, crackers, beedi industries etc.
- (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/-
- (d): No such Supreme Court direction has been received in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- (e): Under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme funds are released to District Project Societies for rehabilitation of child labour. The funds are optimally used by the Societies and the Utilization Certificates are furnished by them every year.