

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:341  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011  
CHILD LABOUR  
Chang Shri C. M.;Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the number of child labourers has still been continuously increasing in the country despite the existence of laws against it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their number State and year-wise for the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared/proposed a time-bound programme to eliminate child labour from the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to address this menace and also for the rehabilitation of the rescued children including provision of their right to education?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 341 FOR ANSWER ON 19.12.2011 REGARDING CHILD LABOUR BY SHRI C.M. CHANG AND SHRI P. KUMAR.

(a) & (b) As per Census 2001, there were 1.26 crore working children in the country in the age group of 5-14. The Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05 estimated the number of working children at 90.75 lakh. As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh which shows a declining trend.

(c) & (d) 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 of India is following a sequential approach of first covering children working in hazardous occupations /processes. Under the Child Labour Policy, Govt. of India follows a multi-pronged approach with the following three major elements:-

- (i) legal action plan.
- (ii) focus on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of Child Labour;
- iii) project-based action in areas of high concentration of Child labour.

Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes and regulates their working conditions in those occupations/processes where they are not prohibited from working.

(e): The Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. Under the Project, children withdrawn from work are enrolled in special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. As per available information, 8.52 lakh children have been mainstreamed since inception into formal education system under NCLP Scheme and at present 3.2 lakhs children are enrolled in NCLP schools. Right to free and compulsory education has been declared as a fundamental right. Under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, all children between the age of 6-14 years are provided free and compulsory education. It is evident from the Census and NSSO data that Government of India schemes have been effective in reducing the number of child labour in the country.