

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:649

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CHILD LABOUR

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

- (a) the estimated number of child labour in the country;
- (b) the number of child labour rescued from Delhi and other parts of the country during the last three years;
- (c) the punitive action taken against erring employers;
- (d) the funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred on various resettlement and rehabilitation schemes/projects for child labour during the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise; and
- (e) the stringent measures taken by the Government to rein in and eradicate child labour in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): As per 2001 census, the total number of working children between the age group 5-14 years in the country was 1.26 crore. However, in the Survey conducted by NSSO, in 2004-05 the numbers of working children were estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh which shows declining trend.

(b): The number of children rescued/withdrawn and rehabilitated through NCLP Scheme are 3,54,877 in the country which includes 1663 children rescued from Delhi during last three years.

(c): As per information available, 25,006 prosecutions were launched against the erring employers and 3394 employers were convicted during last three years.

(d): State-wise details of grants released under NCLP Scheme during the last three years is at Annexure-I.

(e): Under the Child Labour Policy, Government of India follows a multi-pronged approach with the following three major elements:

# Legal Action Plan

# Focus on general development programmes for the benefit of the families of child labour; and

# Project-based action in areas of high concentration of child labour.

The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes. The Act regulates the working conditions of children where they are not prohibited from working. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Child labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a 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 the Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in 266 districts of the country for rehabilitation of children rescued/withdrawn from work. Under the Project, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system.