

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:531

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

CHILD LABOUR

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

- (a) the estimated number of child labourers reported and rescued in various parts of the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of mechanism to prevent such rescued children from going back into child labour forcibly;
- (c) whether the compensation meant for rescued child labourers seldom reaches them;
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken to protect the rescued children along with the measures taken by the Government to completely eradicate child labour in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

- (a): The number of child labourers rescued, rehabilitated and mainstreamed through National Child Labour Project scheme during the last three years, State-wise is given at Annexure.
- (b): The Government is following a robust multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of child labour. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rescue and rehabilitation, universal primary education alongwith social protection, poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes. The objective is to create an environment where families are not compelled to send their children to work. Under National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc.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.
- (c) & (d): Under NCLP Scheme stipend is paid @ Rs.150/- per month/per child. The stipend is remitted by the Project Societies in their Bank/Post Office Accounts on monthly basis and the same could be withdrawn by the child after he/she is mainstreamed into a regular school after completing bridge education in the NCLP schools.
- (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 Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extended to one year or with fine ranging from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-. In pursuance of the National Child Labour Policy, the National Child Labour Project Scheme was started in 1988. The scheme seeks to adopt a sequential approach with focus on the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes in the first instance. The scheme is being implemented in 266 districts. 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. Further, the Ministry launches awareness generation campaigns against the evils of child labour and enforcement of child labour laws through electronic and print media at the centre as well as at the district level.