

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:121

ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009

CHILD LABOUR

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

(a) whether the number of children engaged as child labour in the country is on the rise despite the efforts being made by the Government to eliminate child labour in any form;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check the problem of child labour?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT(SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 121 FOR ANSWER ON 13.07.09 REGARDING CHILD LABOUR BY SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI AND SHRI KISHNBHAI V. PATEL.

(a) to (c): Data on nationwide number of Child Labour is provided under the National Census operation. As per the last Census of 2001, the number of working children in the age group of 5-14 years was 1.26 crore in the country out of which about 12 lakhs were working in hazardous occupations/processes. Any increase or decrease in the figures will be available after the next Census. However, the Government of India has taken various steps for addressing the issue of Child Labour. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 occupations and 65 Processes including as domestic labour and workers in dhabas. The law provides for action against the violators under the Act. State Governments are the appropriate Government for implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction.

Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme in 271 districts in the country for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are admitted into Special Schools where they are provided accelerated bridging education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition and health care facilities etc. Approximately 9800 Special Schools have been sanctioned with the enrollment of 5.00 lakh children and about 5.21 lakh children have been mainstreamed into the formal education system since inception of the NCLP Scheme in 1988. Adopting a holistic approach, the Government is also taking pro-active measures for economic upliftment of their families through convergence with various developmental and poverty alleviation programmes/schemes of other Ministries. Awareness campaigns on the ills of child labour are run from time to time. The Government is also collaborating with International Organizations such as ILO to address the problem of child labour.