

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1562

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012

CHILD AND BONDED LABOUR

Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) the number of child labourers and bonded labourers identified in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has made any observations in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) the total number of child and bonded labourers rescued and rehabilitated during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has launched any publicity or special drive against the practice of child and bonded labour in the country including in the rural areas;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and (g) the measures taken by the Government for the eradication of child and bonded labour in the country?

Answer

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

(a): The state-wise details of working children as per NSSO Survey 2009-10 and bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated under Centrally Sponsored Scheme are given at Annexure-I.

(b)&(c): The issue relating to bonded labourers has been taken up in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the form of Public Interest Litigations and the Supreme Court has been giving necessary directions from time to time for proper implementation of the provision of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 like conducting of fresh survey periodically and submitting of report to National Human Rights Commission timely, formation of Vigilance Committee, cooperation with local bodies for identifying the bonded labourers and enhancement of rehabilitation package etc. The Government is implementing the various directions given by the Supreme Court in this regard.

(d): number of child labourers rescued, rehabilitated and mainstreamed through National Child Labour Project scheme during the last three years and current year, State-wise are given at Annexure-II.

(e) to (g): 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 Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes including hazardous factories in fireworks industry. 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 or with fine. The Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme since 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. 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. As regards bonded labourers the Ministry is implementing Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976. As per the Act, no person is allowed to make an advance under or in pursuance of the bonded labour system and no one can compel any person to render any bonded labour or other forms of forced labour. As and when existence of bonded labour is detected, such persons are identified for rehabilitation. The Government is implementing Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour Scheme since 1978. Under this Scheme, rehabilitation assistance @ Rs.20,000/- per bonded labour is provided which is equally shared by the Central and the State Government.