

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:925
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013
MENACE OF CHILD LABOUR
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the failure to draw street children to mainstream and control the menace of child labour are the reasons for their getting involved in horrible/brutal crimes;
- (b) if so, the number and details of such children involved in hideous crime during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bring children to the mainstream of the society?

Answer

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

(a) Elimination of child labour is an area of great concern and Government of India is committed to address the issue. Considering the magnitude and nature of problem Government is following a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of child labour. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rescue & rehabilitation, universal primary education alongwith social protection, poverty alleviation and employment generation. The objective is to create an environment where families are not compelled to send their children to work. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for children in difficult circumstances, which includes street children. 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 a declining trend. The existing legislation and policy framed by the Government have yielded positive results.

(b) As informed by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Women and Child Development, no data on street children and crimes committed by them are maintained centrally.

(c) As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against children, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against children. Ministry of Home Affairs issued a detailed advisory dated 14th July, 2010 to all State Governments and UT Administrations wherein States/UTs have been advised to Vigorously enforce all the existing legislations relating to crime against children. 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 or with fine. For rehabilitation of child labour the Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme since 1988. The scheme seeks educational rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes. 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. The Government is also running the awareness generation programme against the evil of child labour. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) since 2009-10 for children in difficult circumstances, which includes street children. ICPS provides support for Open Shelters which may be setup in Urban and Semi Urban Areas to inter-alia provide for children age-appropriate education, access to vocational training, recreation, bridge education, linkages to the National Open School Programme (NOSP), health care, counseling, referral services for specialized services, e.g., for prevention of drug and substance abuse etc.