

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2226  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013  
INCREASE IN CHILD LABOUR  
Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh;Biswal Shri Hemanand

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

- (a) whether the number of child labourers is increasing continuously in the country particularly in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of the amount allocated under Welfare and Rehabilitation Plan for child labourers in the country including Punjab, year-wise and State-wise;
- (d) whether the allocated funds are being properly utilized by the States including Punjab; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to stop the increasing number of child labourers in the country along with the result thereof during the last three years and the current year?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): As per 2001 census, the total number of working children between the age group 5-14 years in the country was 1.26 crore out of which there were approximately 12 lakh children found working in the hazardous occupations/processes which are covered under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. However, in the Survey conducted by NSSO, in 2004-05 the numbers of working children were estimated at 90.75 lakh which includes 1.01 lakh working children in the state of Punjab. As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh including 0.48 lakh working children from Punjab, which shows a declining trend.

(c) & (d): Grants released during the last five years and current year, year-wise and State-wise (including Punjab) under NCLP are annexed. The funds allocated under NCLP Scheme to the Project Societies headed by District Magistrate/Collector at District level are utilised for rehabilitation of child labour through special schools. The Project Societies regularly submit Utilisation Certificates, Audited Accounts, Annual Progress Report and Quarterly Progress Report to the Ministry.

(e): 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. 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 Ministry is also running the awareness generation programme against the evil of child labour. With the persistent effort of the Government through implementation different schemes the number of child labour in the country has been reduced considerably.

The existing legislation and policy framed by the Government have yielded positive results.