

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3299

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

CHILDREN AS DOMESTIC SERVANT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Shanavas Shri M. I.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

(a)whether the Union Government had sought support from the State Government in enforcing the ban on employment of children as domestic servants and as labourers in eateries stone quarries and mines, etc.;

(b)if so, the response of the State Government in this regard;

(c)whether in spite of the complete ban on employment of children as domestic servants and as labourers, no progress has been made to eliminate child labour in the country;

(d)if so, the reasons therefor;

(e)whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the number of child labourers across the country;

(f)if so, the details thereof; and (g)the measures taken by the Government to eradicate the children from domestic servants and as labourers in the above workplaces?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes which include domestic servants, eateries, stone quarries and mines. 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. Central Government is the appropriate authority for enforcement of the Act in respect of Central Government establishments, railways, ports, mines or oil fields and in all other cases, State Government is the appropriate authority for implementation under the Act.

(c) to (f): 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 state-wise details of working children as per NSSO Survey 2009-10 are given at Annexure-I.

(g): Considering the magnitude and nature of problem of child labour Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rescue & rehabilitation, universal primary education along-with 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 through print, folk, and electronic media and calls for requisite training and sensitization workshops etc.