

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5470

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013

ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao; Pradhan Shri Nityananda; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has not declared engagement of Child Labour as a cognizable and non-bailable offence;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government had set up panel to suggest changes in the existing law to abolish all forms of child labour under 18 years;
- (d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the aforesaid Committee and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government is also aware of certain loopholes with regard to the policy- framework for the rehabilitation of rescued Child Labourers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A proposal for amendments in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to make it more effective, is under consideration with the Government. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012 has been placed in the Parliament and is presently under examination with Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Amendment Bill inter-alia covers (i) complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years and linking the age of the prohibition with the age under Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, (ii) prohibition of working of Adolescents (14 to 18 years) in Mines, Explosives and hazardous occupations set forth in the Factories Act, 1948, (iii) more strict punishment to the offenders and making the offences under the Act cognizable.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise, in view of reply at (e) above. The Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations and processes. Ministry of Labour & Employment in consultation with other Ministries is considering to review the Scheme for making it more child friendly.