

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6299
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
VIOLATIONS OF CHILD LABOUR LAWS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the exploitations of child labourers in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the International Labour (ILO) has also attracted attention of the Government in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) the total number of complaints received against exploitation of child labourers and Child Labour Act violations cases registered during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise along with the action taken thereon; and
- (f) the stringent measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the child labourers from exploitation and against the violations of child labour laws?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) 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 Under the Project, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the special schools, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc.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.

(c) & (d) Ministry has not received any such report from International Labour Organisation (ILO).

(e) As per the data received from various States, the State wise details of inspections carried out, prosecutions launched, convictions made against the guilty employers under the Child Labour Act during the last three years are annexed.

(f) The Government is implementing the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which 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. Further to make the provisions of the Act more effective a proposal for amendments in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, 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.