

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6382
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
VIOLATIONS OF CHILD LABOUR LAWS
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Singh Shri Dhananjay

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

- (a) the number of child labourers in the country at present, State and gender-wise;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to maintain industry/sector-wise information on child labour law violations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the main child labour exploiting industries and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the labour laws particularly the child labour laws; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) 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. The details on children working in hazardous occupations/processes as per Census 2001 is given at Annexure-I. However, in the Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), in 2004-05 the number of working children were estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh. The State-wise and gender-wise details of working children as per NSSO Survey 2009-10 are given at Annexure-II.

(d) & (e) 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.