

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:143

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

CHILD LABOUR

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) the estimated number of child workers/labourers in the rural and urban areas of the country at present, State/UT/ gender-wise;
- (b) the details of child labour eradication and rehabilitation programmes being implemented by the Government and the success achieved as a result thereof;
- (c) the details of the action taken against those offenders who have engaged child labourers along with the number of child workers rescued/rehabilitated during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the stringent measures for complete elimination of child labour particularly those engaged in hazardous occupation, circus, etc.?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.143 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2013 BY SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR AND SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA REGARDING CHILD LABOUR.

(a): As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh. The details, rural and urban, State and gender wise, of the country are given at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d): As per 2001 census, the total number of working children between the age group 5-14 years in the country was reported to be 1.26 crore. However, in the Survey conducted by NSSO, in 2004-05 the number of working children was estimated at 90.75 lakh which had further declined to 49.84 lakh as per NSSO Survey 2009-10.

The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 18 Occupations and 65 Processes including circus and regulates the working conditions of children, where they are not prohibited from working. 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.

As per the data received from various States, the details of inspections carried out, prosecutions launched and convictions achieved against the offenders under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 during the last three years and current year are as under:

Year	No. of inspections	No. of prosecutions	No. of convictions
2010	250087	4508	1317
2011	123139	5961	933
2012	128499	4695	975
2013	34334	586	311

(Up to
Nov., 2013)

To make the provisions of Child Labour Law stringent, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012 has been introduced in the Parliament. 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, inflammable substances or explosives and hazardous processes as defined in the Factories Act, 1948, (iii) stricter punishment to the offenders and making the offences under the Act cognizable.

Ministry of Labour & Employment is also implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988 for rehabilitation of child labour with the major objective of withdrawing children working in hazardous occupations and processes, and mainstreaming them into formal education system. Under this Scheme, regular survey is conducted by Project Societies at district

level to identify children working in hazardous occupations and processes. Children rescued/withdrawn in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP training centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend etc. The number of child labourers rescued, rehabilitated and mainstreamed through NCLP Scheme during the last three years and current year, State-wise is given at Annexure-II.