GOVERNMENT OF INDIA LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1665
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
CHILD LABOUR IN HAZARDOUS OCCUPATIONS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of occupations/industries including processes notified as hazardous for child labour;
- (b) the approximate number of children employed including those killed in such occupations in various parts of the country during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the number of work-related deaths of children in such hazardous industries during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of children rescued and rehabilitated during the said period along with the action taken against their employers; and
- (e) the effective steps being taken by the Government to check the practice of employing child workers in the said industries?

Answer

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

- (a): The details of occupations and processes where child labour is prohibited under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, are at Annexure-I.
- (b) & (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 are given at Annexure-II. The official data of children working in the hazardous occupations/processes of the country for the last three years and current year in respect of Census 2011 or NSSO has not yet been received. As per information available from States/UTs no child labour has been reported killed in hazardous occupation during last three years.
- (d): As per information received from District Project Societies, number of child labourers mainstreamed through National Child Labour Project scheme during the last three years, State-wise, is at Annexure-III. As per the data received from various States, the details of inspections carried out, prosecutions launched, convictions made against the guilty employers under the Child Labour Act during the last three years are as under:

(e): 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 and/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 training centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system.