

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2942

ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014

VIOLATION OF CHILD LABOUR LAWS

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the exploitation of child labourers in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) 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
- (d) 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): Considering the magnitude and nature of problem of child labour, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. 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 also 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 Under the Project, children rescued/withdrawn from work are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health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. The Ministry is also running the awareness generation programme against the evil of child labour. With the enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the efforts to eliminate child labour will receive a big boost as under the Act every child in the age group of 6-14 years is to be provided free and compulsory education.

(c) & (d): As per the data received from various States, the State wise details of violations detected, prosecutions launched, convictions made against the guilty employers under the Child Labour Act during the last three years is annexed. Further, to make the provisions of Child Labour Law more stringent, Govt. is amending the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012 has already been placed 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.