

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3049

ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014

CHILD LABOUR

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

- (a) whether the number of child labourers has been continuously increasing in the country making them vulnerable to trafficking and other abuses despite the existence of laws against it;
- (b) if so, the details and numbers of child labourers; State and year-wise for each of the last three years and the current year, specially in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the International Labour Organisation has also attracted the attention of the Government in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to address this menace and also for the rehabilitation of the rescued children including provision of their right to education?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. 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 covered under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which include hazardous factories. However, in the Survey conducted by NSSO, in 2004-05 the number of working children was estimated at 90.75 lakh. As per NSSO survey 2009-10, the working children are estimated at 49.84 lakh which shows a declining trend. The state-wise details of working children as per NSSO Survey 2009-10 are given at Annexure-I. 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.

(c) to (e): Ministry of Labour & Employment and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have been jointly collaborating to address issues related to child labour under the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). Considering the magnitude and nature of problem of child labour, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy comprising of statutory and legislative measures, rescue & rehabilitation, universal primary education along with 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 Ministry of Labour & Employment 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.

For rehabilitation of child labour, the Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988. The scheme seeks educational rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes. The Ministry is also running awareness generation programme against the evil of child labour. The enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides free and compulsory education for every child in the age group of 6-14 years which will boost the efforts towards elimination of child labour.