

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:531
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014
CHILDREN ENGAGED IN FACTORIES
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of children are reportedly working/engaged in hazardous occupation/processes including in factories of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated number of such children reportedly working, Occupation-wise and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of children rescued/withdrawn from hazardous occupation/processes or factories of MSMEs and the action taken against the offenders under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the major reasons identified for prevalence of child labour in the country and the steps taken to address the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL, MINES, LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) & (b): 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 child labourers were mostly working in Pan, Bidi, construction, domestic work, spinning and weaving etc. The details on children working in hazardous occupations/processes as per Census 2001 are annexed. As per Census 2011, the total number of working children in the age group 5-14 years was 43.53 lakh, which is a reduction of 65%. The sectoral dis-aggregated data on child labour from 2011 Census is not available.

(c): The number of children mainstreamed during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of children mainstreamed
2011-12	125716
2012-13	72976
2013-14	64050

The details of violations detected, prosecutions launched, convictions made against the guilty employers under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 during the last three years are as under:

Year	Violations	Prosecutions	Convictions
2011	14401	6009	974
2012	11974	5007	1142
2013	8776	2567	828

(d): Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness, illiteracy, etc. Recognizing that child labour has multiple reasons and multiple dimensions, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures including Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, convergence of Government developmental programmes for the benefit of the child labour and their families such as universal primary education, poverty alleviation, employment generation etc. and project based intervention in areas of high concentration of child labour through National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.